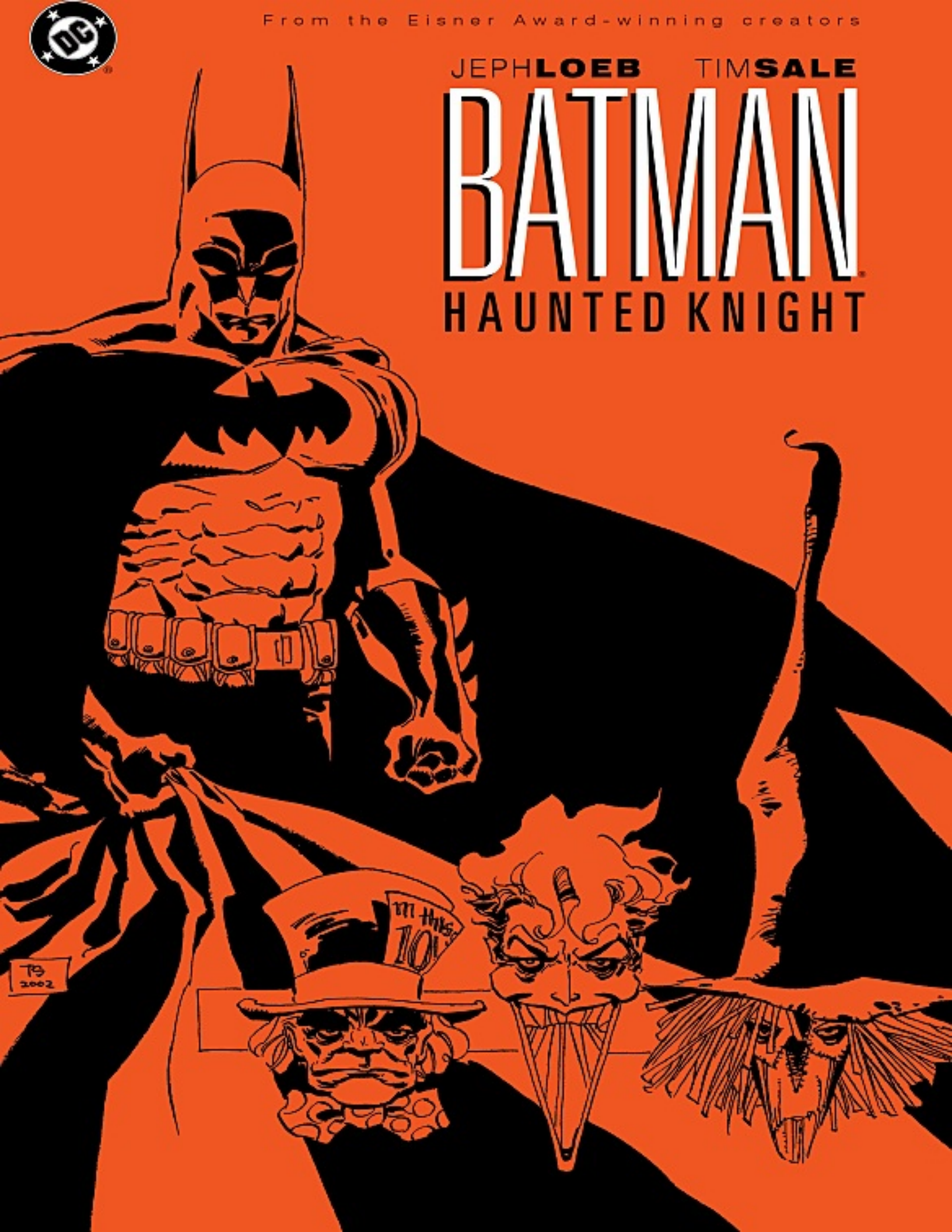
From the Eisner Award-winning creators
JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE
BATMAN
HAUNTED KNIGHT

Batman: Haunted Knight

The Legends of the Dark Knight Halloween Specials

Three Tales of Halloween in Gotham City

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storytellers

GREGORY WRIGHT
colorist

TODD KLEIN
letterer

ANDROID IMAGES
separations (chapters two and three)

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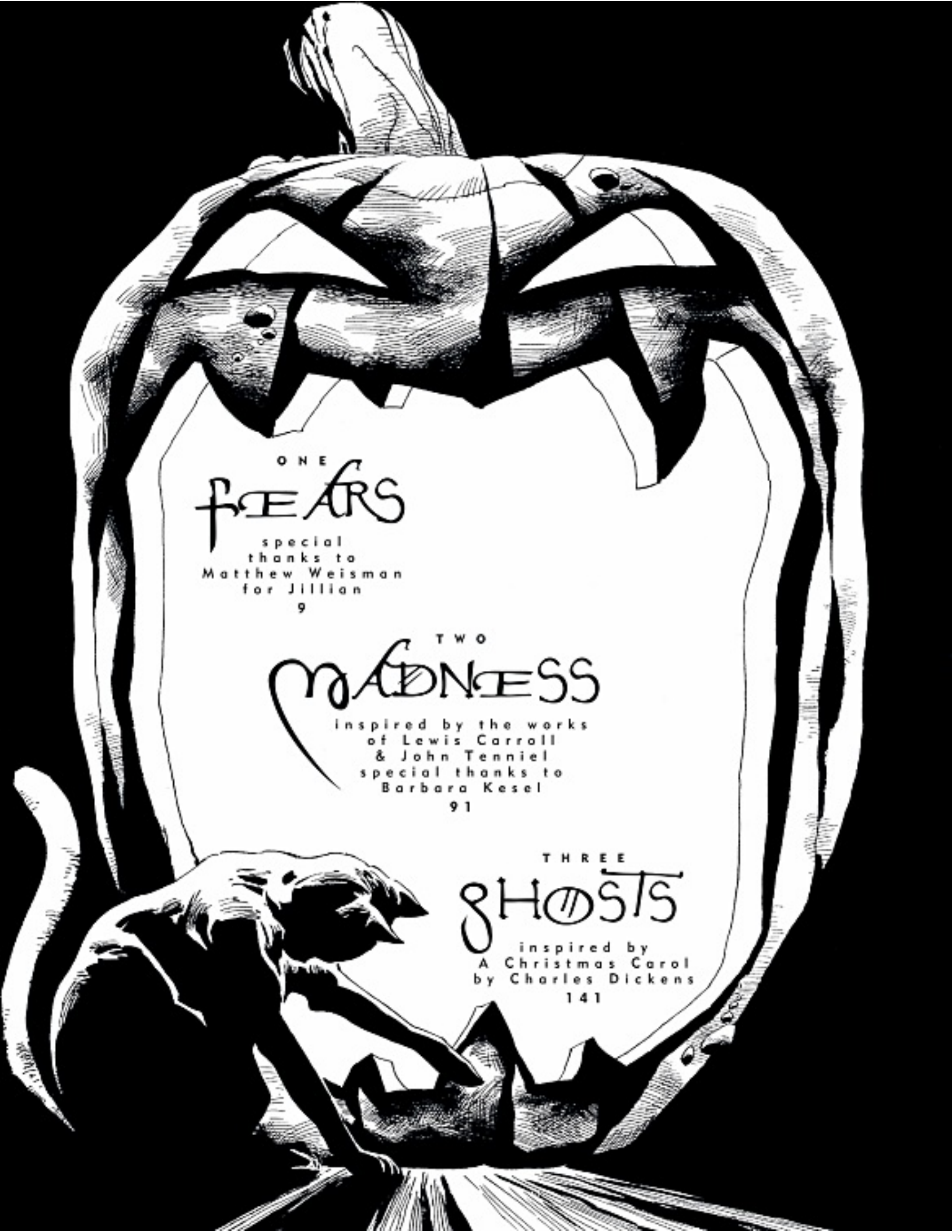

ONE

FEARS

special
thanks to
Matthew Weisman
for Jillian
9

TWO

MADNESS

inspired by the works
of Lewis Carroll
& John Tenniel
special thanks to
Barbara Kesel
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THREE

GHOSTS

inspired by
A Christmas Carol
by Charles Dickens
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Trick or Treat

One Halloween night in 1944 when I was seven years old, I hammered the front door of a house on my block and in my best goblin voice yelled "Trick or treat." Suddenly the door flew open and an apparent madman was waving a rifle in my face, screaming he was going to shoot me for trespassing. Too frightened to run, I burst into tears. The madman looked startled. He stopped screaming and showed me that the rifle was empty. This was all just his little joke to scare trick-or-treaters. He called his wife. Large quantities of candy and apologies were heaped upon me. I walked away from their porch with drying eyes and rich in goodies. But my knees shook for the rest of the night.

Halloween. Harmless enough, yet under the giggly thrill of pretend scares, it seems also to have the sinister potential to somehow turn real, to somehow push us onto a rollercoaster ride of fears and emotions we aren't prepared to face but suddenly have to. A queasy experience for me as a seven-year-old, but one loaded with possibilities when you apply it to an already dark and complex character like the Batman. Three of the best such applications are collected in this volume. They are written by Jeph Loeb and illustrated by Tim Sale.

The stories spin out of a Batman title I edit, LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT. The first story in this collection, "Fears," was going to be a three-issue arc in that title. Somewhere along the line, Jeph suggested that, given the subject matter, maybe it could be a Batman Halloween Special instead. Like most great ideas, it seemed simple, obvious, and natural. Amazingly, given Batman's "creature of the night" persona, no one in recent memory had tried anything quite like it. Best of all, the material was more than strong enough to support the special format.

Set in the early years of Batman's career, LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT story arcs function like self-contained novels or novelettes without the ongoing continuity associated with most comics today. To avoid seeming like mechanical set pieces, they have to have unique style, point of view and emotional depth, revealing new aspects of the Dark Knight, his friends, his foes, his city. It's a challenge not everyone can rise to, but one Jeph and Tim obviously thrive on.

Working together seems to bring out the best in them. Working together on Batman seems to bring out even better than that. They immerse themselves totally in the material, bringing to it not only their love of the character, but of comics and movies and genre fiction in general. They worry over everything from the change of a word to the choice of a color. They lobby long and hard to make sure anything not done by themselves is done by the best in the field, such as letterer Todd Klein and colorist Gregory Wright. Obsessive? Sure, but all in service of the story they're telling. And, as you'll see when you read this collection, there's a trick to doing a great Batman Halloween story. The trick is that it has to be a great Batman story first. The treat is that Jeph and Tim have mastered the trick.

The first LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT HALLOWEEN SPECIAL sold out within weeks of its first appearance. That was going to be it. A one-time thing. Then Jeph and Tim had some thoughts about Alice in Wonderland that grew into "Madness." And that was going to be it, except that they had another thought about Charles Dickens and suddenly there was "Ghosts." From one story somehow a tradition evolved. Is the tradition over? Well, it was going to be with this collection. Except Jeph and Tim had this idea not for just a special, but a special *series* involving a year in Batman's life, a year that covers thirteen months. It's called THE LONG HALLOWEEN. They're already under way with it. As an editor, I'm excited, but...the seven-year-old in me finds his knees begin to shake.

—Archie Goodwin

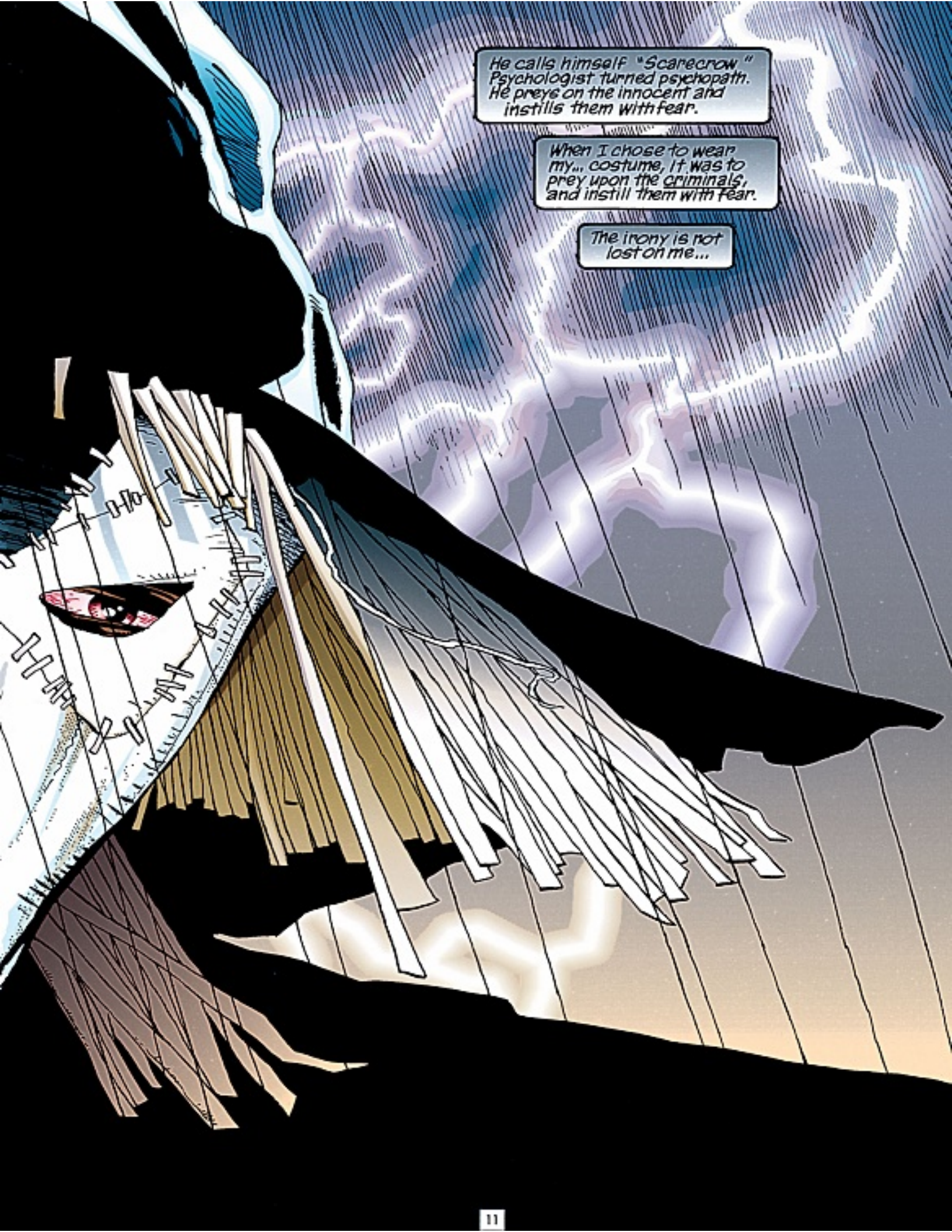
TS

FEARS

ONE

In Los Angeles at this time of year, everyone with a gun fires it into the air. People are killed from the falling bullets.
In Cincinnati a curfew prevents the children from "trick or treating" after dark.
In Detroit they call it "Devil's Night." Buildings are torched. Fires sweep throughout the city unchecked.
But, in Gotham City, on Halloween...

ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE!


He calls himself "Scarecrow." Psychologist turned psychopath. He preys on the innocent and instills them with fear.
When I chose to wear my... costume, it was to prey upon the criminals, and instill them with fear.
The irony is not lost on me...

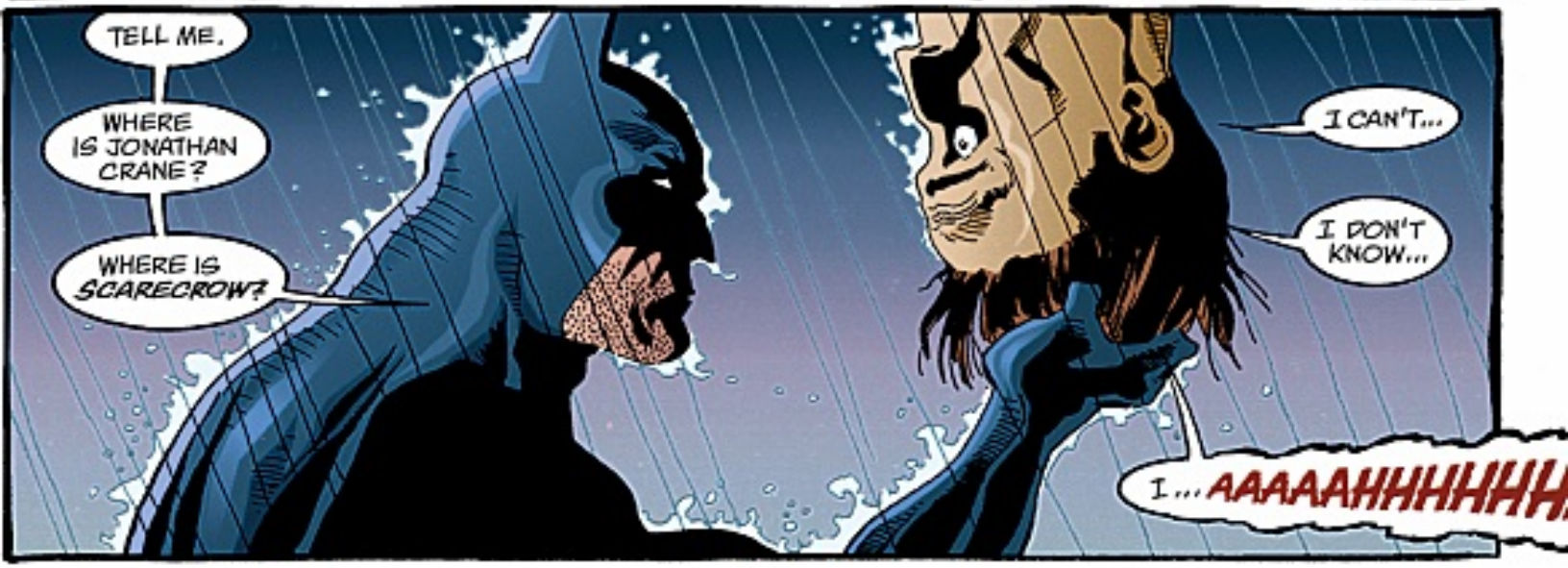
WHEN YOU THINK J.C.'S GONNA CALL, MATT?
WHEN HE'S GOOD AND READY, STANLEY.
JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER NIGHT THIS WEEK.
HEY! WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?
WHOEVER HE IS JUST BOUGHT A HEAP OF TROUBLE.
SAM, COVER THE FRONT DOOR. SIMON, YOU--
I'M ONLY GOING TO ASK YOU ONCE.

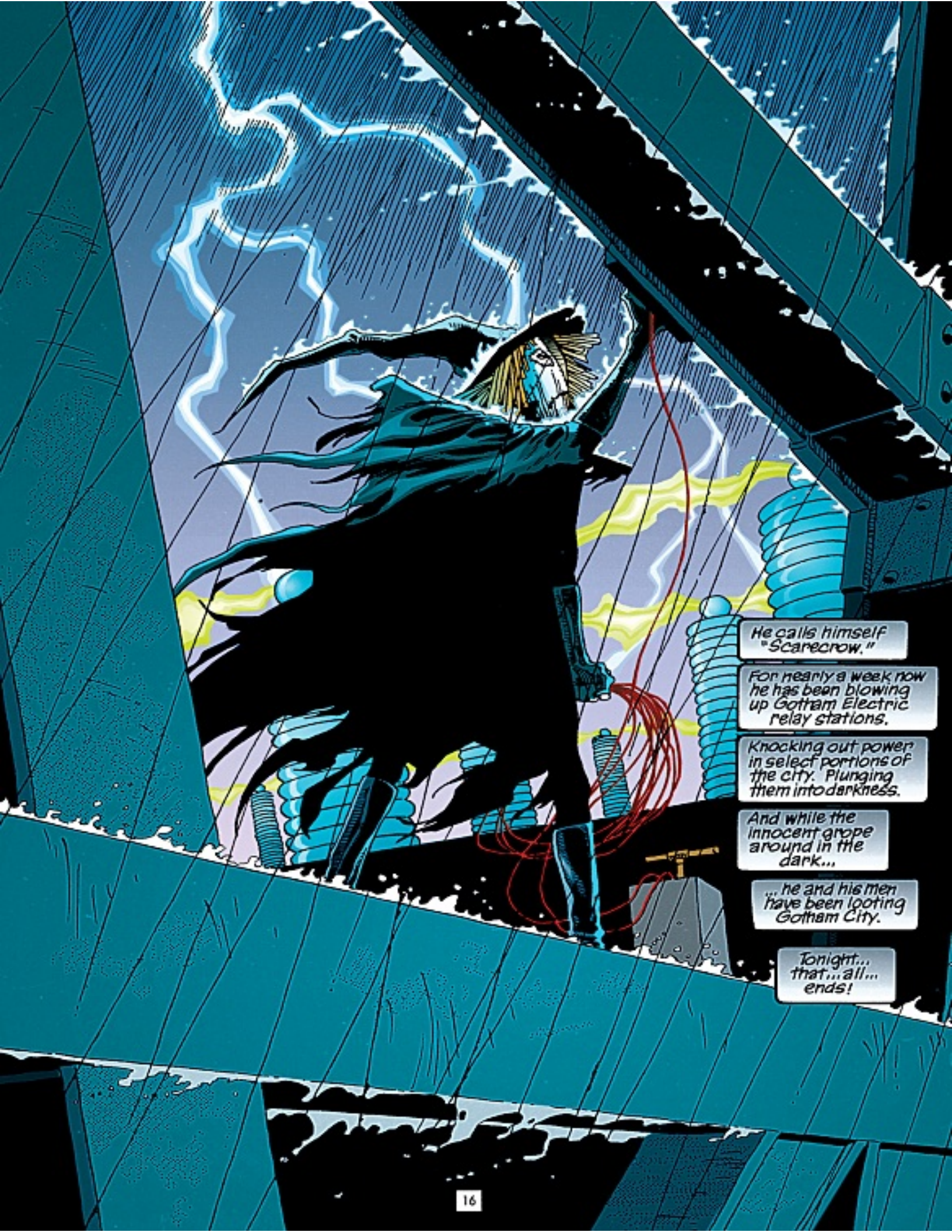
WHERE IS JONATHAN CRANE?
IT'S--THE B-BATMAN!
THERE'S FOUR OF US! LET'S TAKE HIM!

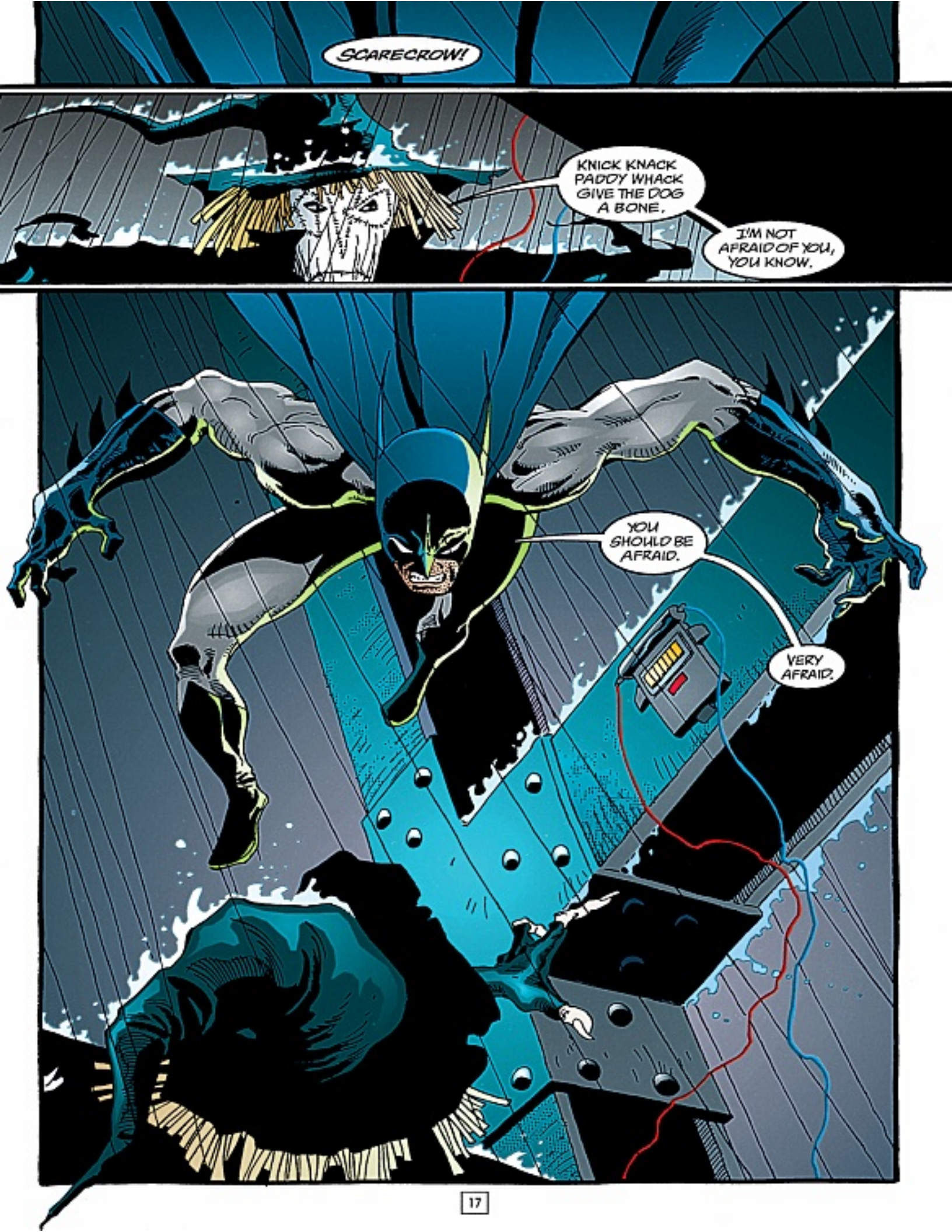
YOU CAN'T RUN...

YOU CAN'T HIDE...

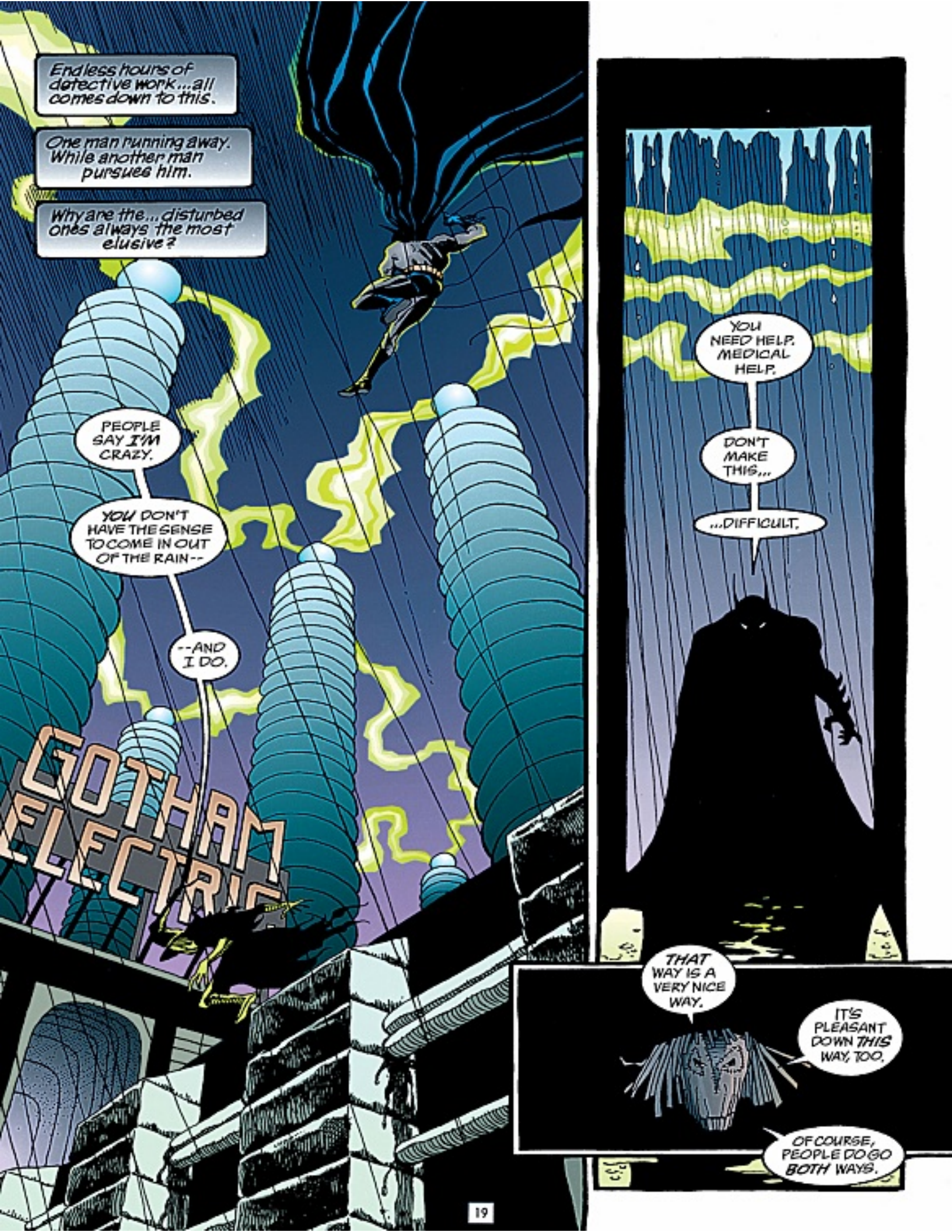
I KNOW WHO YOU'VE BEEN WORKING FOR...

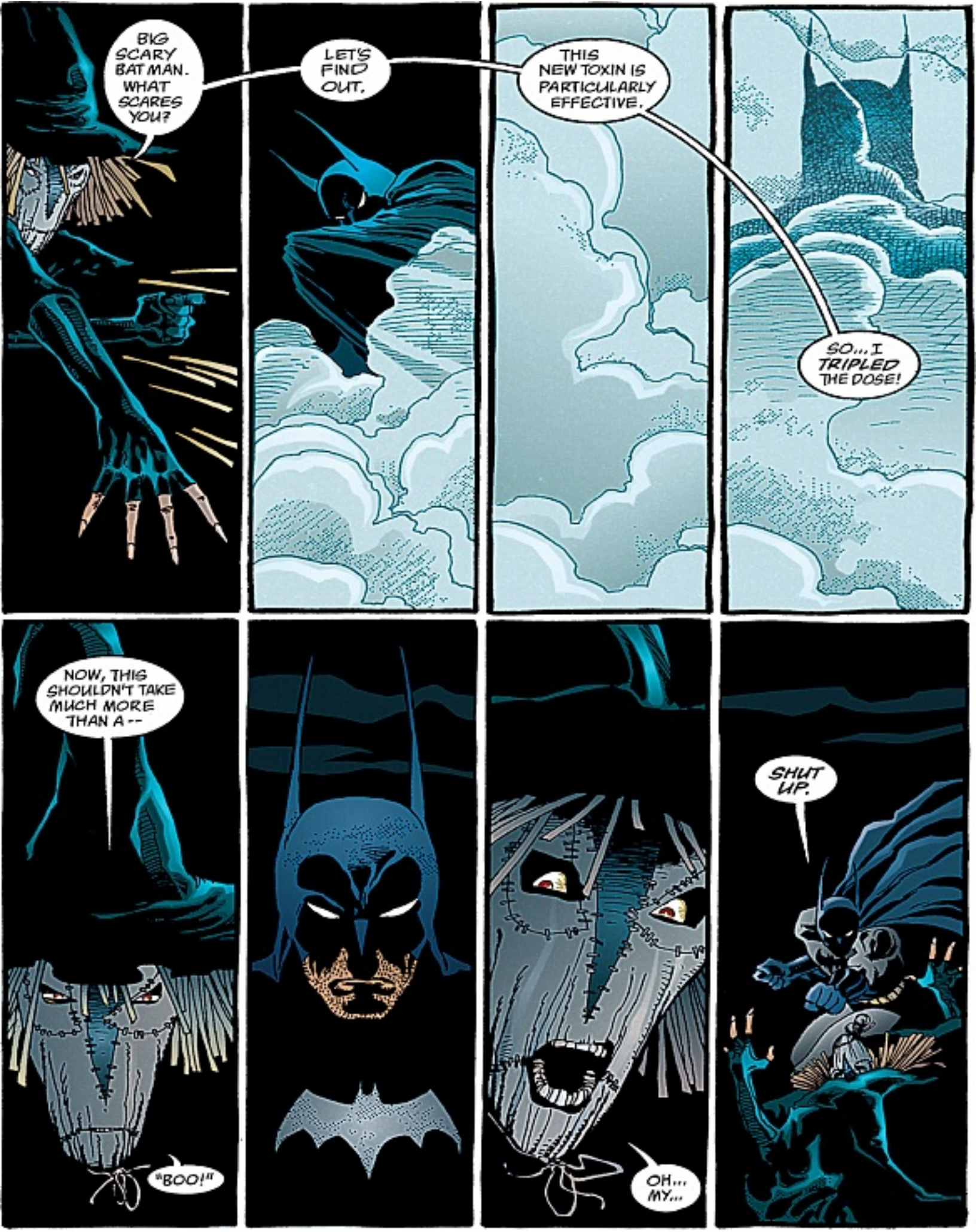

TELL ME.
WHERE IS JONATHAN CRANE?
WHERE IS SCARECROW?
I CAN'T...
I DON'T KNOW...
I... AAAAAHHHHHHH

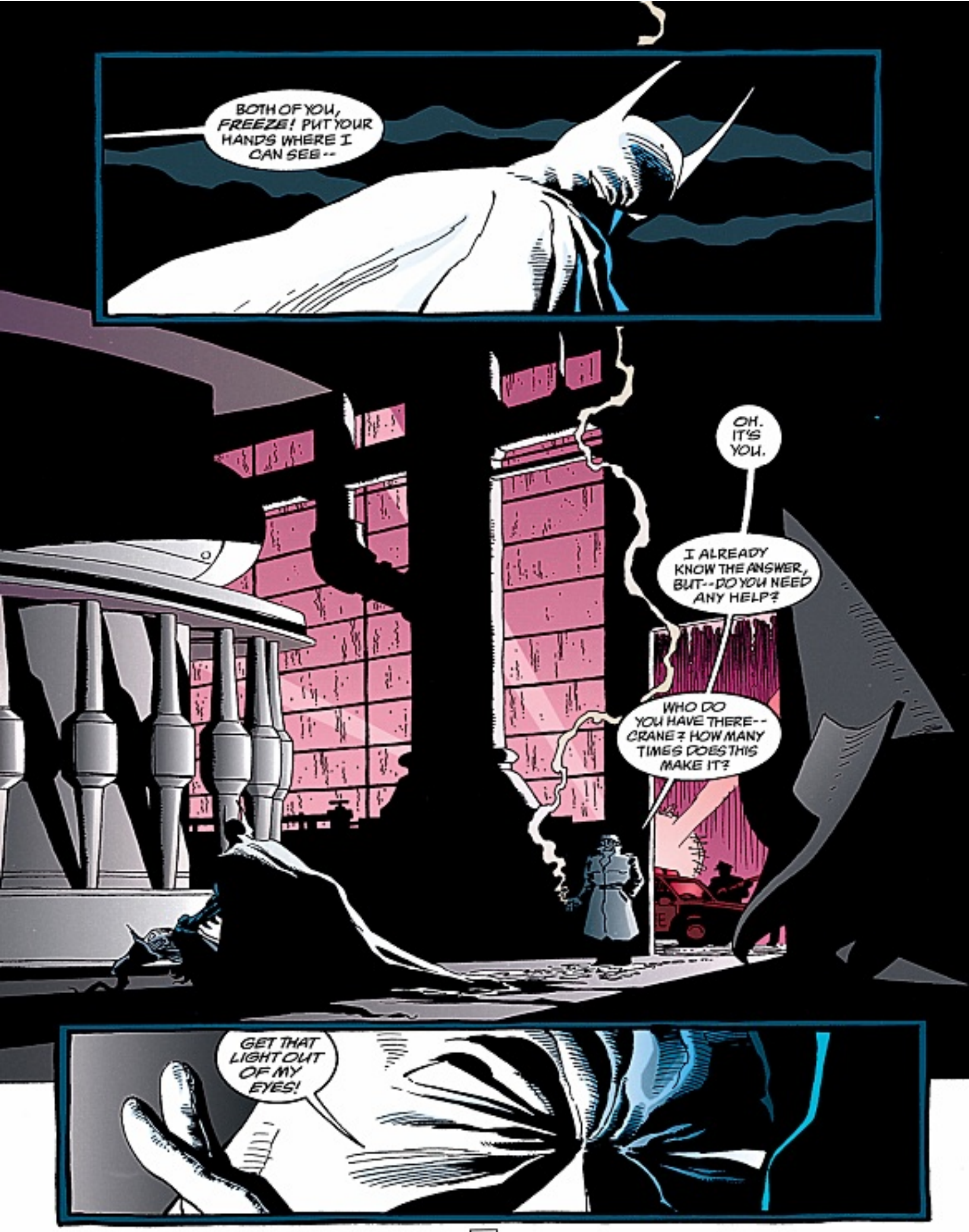

He calls himself "Scarecrow."
For nearly a week now he has been blowing up Gotham Electric relay stations.
Knocking out power in select portions of the city. Plunging them into darkness.
And while the innocent grope around in the dark...
... he and his men have been looting Gotham City.
Tonight... that... all... ends!


SCARECROW!
KNICK KNACK PADDY WHACK GIVE THE DOG A BONE.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU, YOU KNOW.
YOU SHOULD BE AFRAID.
VERY AFRAID.

Tired.
Haven't slept in several days.
CRANE!
I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO YOUR PADDED CELL!
HELLO.
GOOD-BYE.
BEEN THERE.
DONE THAT.


Endless hours of detective work...all comes down to this.
One man running away. While another man pursues him.
Why are the...disturbed ones always the most elusive?
PEOPLE SAY I'M CRAZY.
YOU DON'T HAVE THE SENSE TO COME IN OUT OF THE RAIN--
--AND I DO.
GOTHAM ELECTRIC
YOU NEED HELP. MEDICAL HELP.
DON'T MAKE THIS...
...DIFFICULT.
THAT WAY IS A VERY NICE WAY.
IT'S PLEASANT DOWN THIS WAY, TOO.
OF COURSE, PEOPLE DO GO BOTH WAYS.

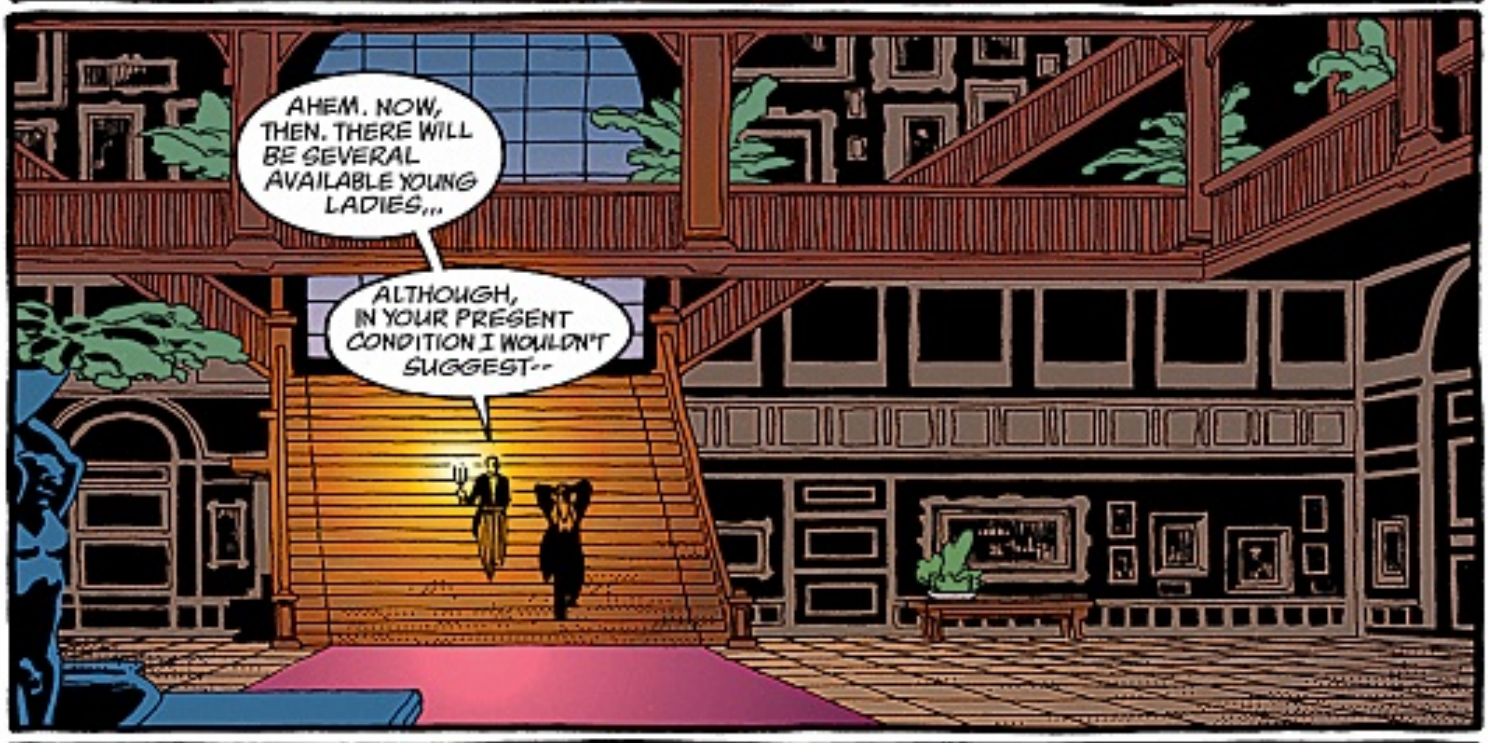

BIG SCARY BATMAN. WHAT SCARES YOU?
LET'S FIND OUT.
THIS NEW TOXIN IS PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE.
SO... I TRIPLED THE DOSE!
NOW, THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE MUCH MORE THAN A --
"BOO!"
OH... MY...
SHUT UP.

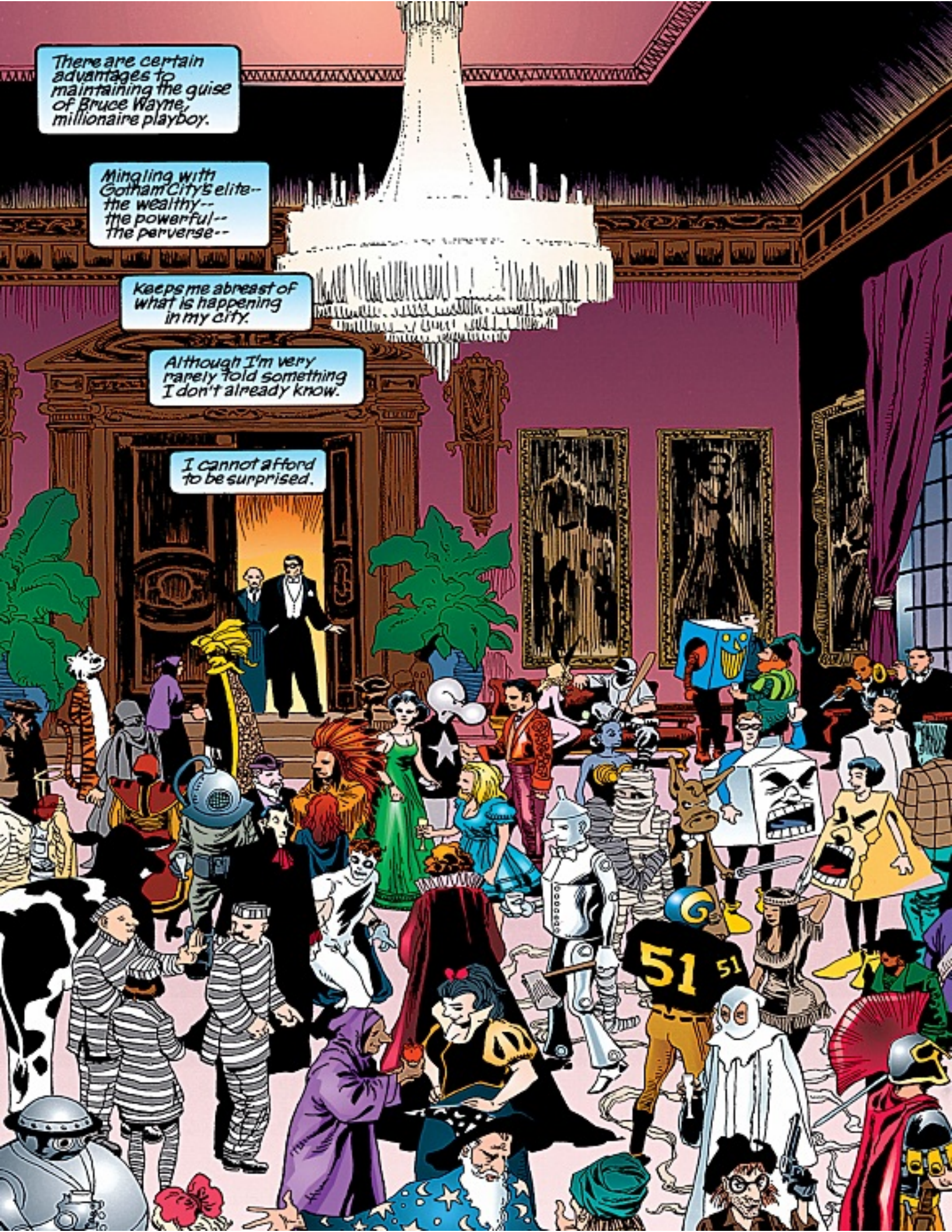

BOTH OF YOU, FREEZE! PUT YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE--
OH. IT'S YOU.
I ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER, BUT--DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?
WHO DO YOU HAVE THERE--CRANE? HOW MANY TIMES DOES THIS MAKE IT?
GET THAT LIGHT OUT OF MY EYES!

GOTHAM ELECTRIC
POLICE
I'M GETTING TO APPRECIATE YOUR PARTICULAR TALENTS WITH THE... ODD ONES.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DIDN'T INHALE ANY OF THAT HORRIBLE FEARGAS, DID YOU?
I'M FINE. JUST...
TIRED.
YOU COULD USE A BREAK. UM... THERE'S A PARTY.
AT BRUCE WAYNE'S. COSTUME THING.
YOU COULD COME... DRESSED AS YOU ARE...
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO GO... IT'S BARBARA. ONCE SHE GETS SOMETHING IN HER HEAD...
BARBARA...
THE WIFE. LOOK. LET'S FORGET IT.
THAT'S THE LAST TIME I TRY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT IN NEARLY THREE DAYS, SIR.

I COULD MAKE SOME SORT OF EXCUSE. I EXCEL IN THOSE, YOU KNOW.
I'M SURE YOUR GUESTS WOULD UNDERSTAND.
EVEN THE ONES WHO GAVE ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO THE WAYNE FOUNDATION CHARITIES FOR THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY THIS EVENING.


AHEM. NOW, THEN. THERE WILL BE SEVERAL AVAILABLE YOUNG LADIES...
ALTHOUGH, IN YOUR PRESENT CONDITION I WOULDN'T SUGGEST--


There are certain advantages to maintaining the guise of Bruce Wayne, millionaire playboy.
Mingling with Gotham City's elite-- the wealthy-- the powerful-- the perverse--
Keeps me abreast of what is happening in my city.
Although I'm very rarely told something I don't already know.
I cannot afford to be surprised.
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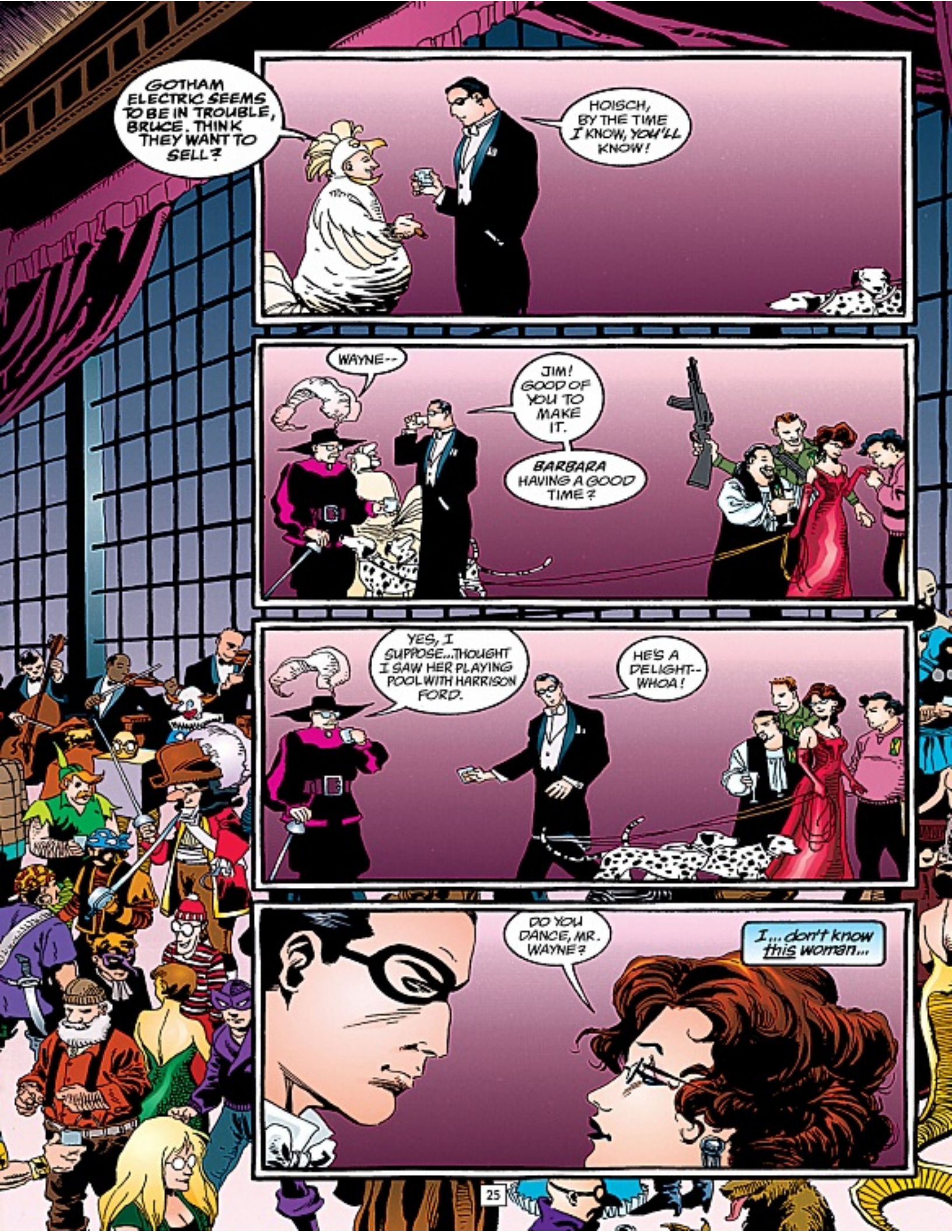
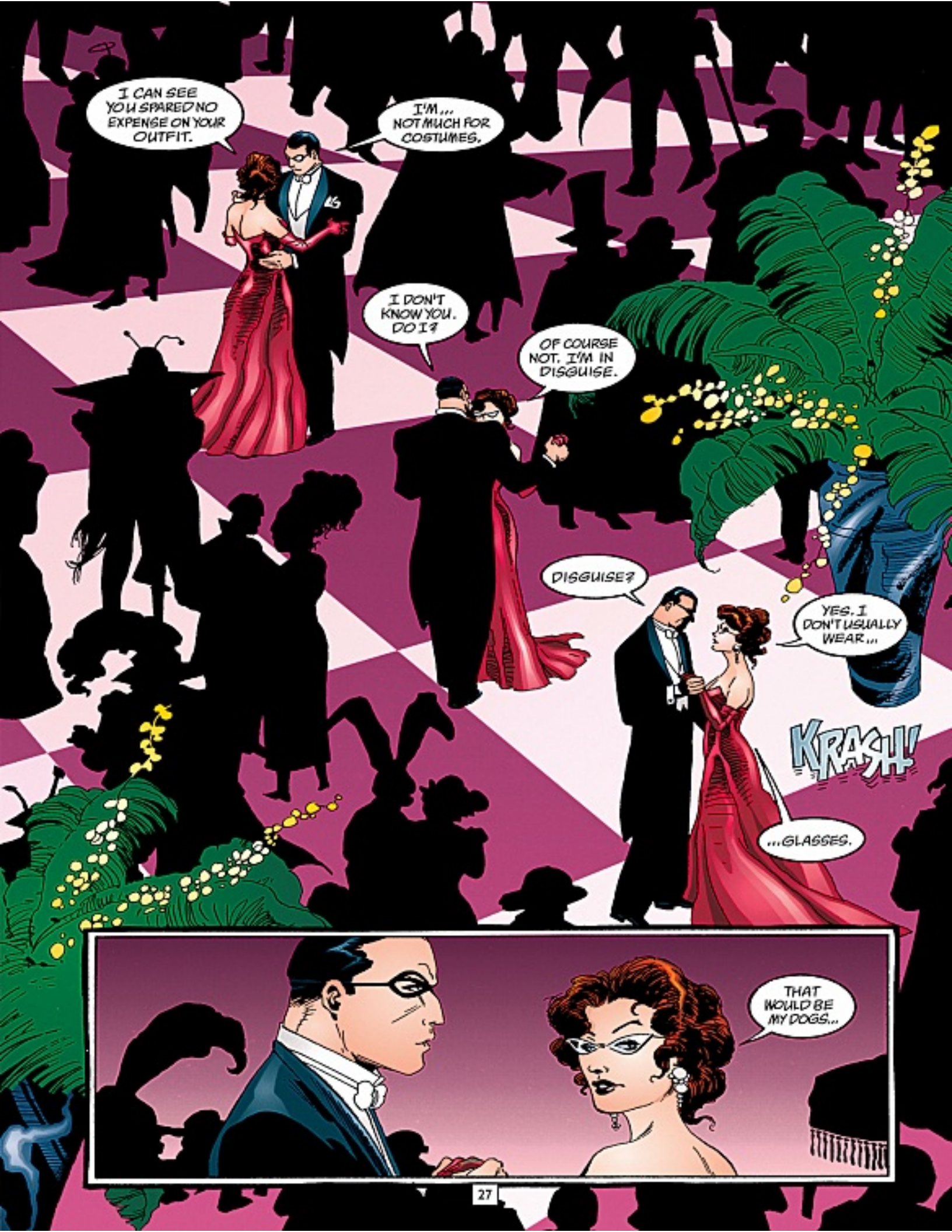
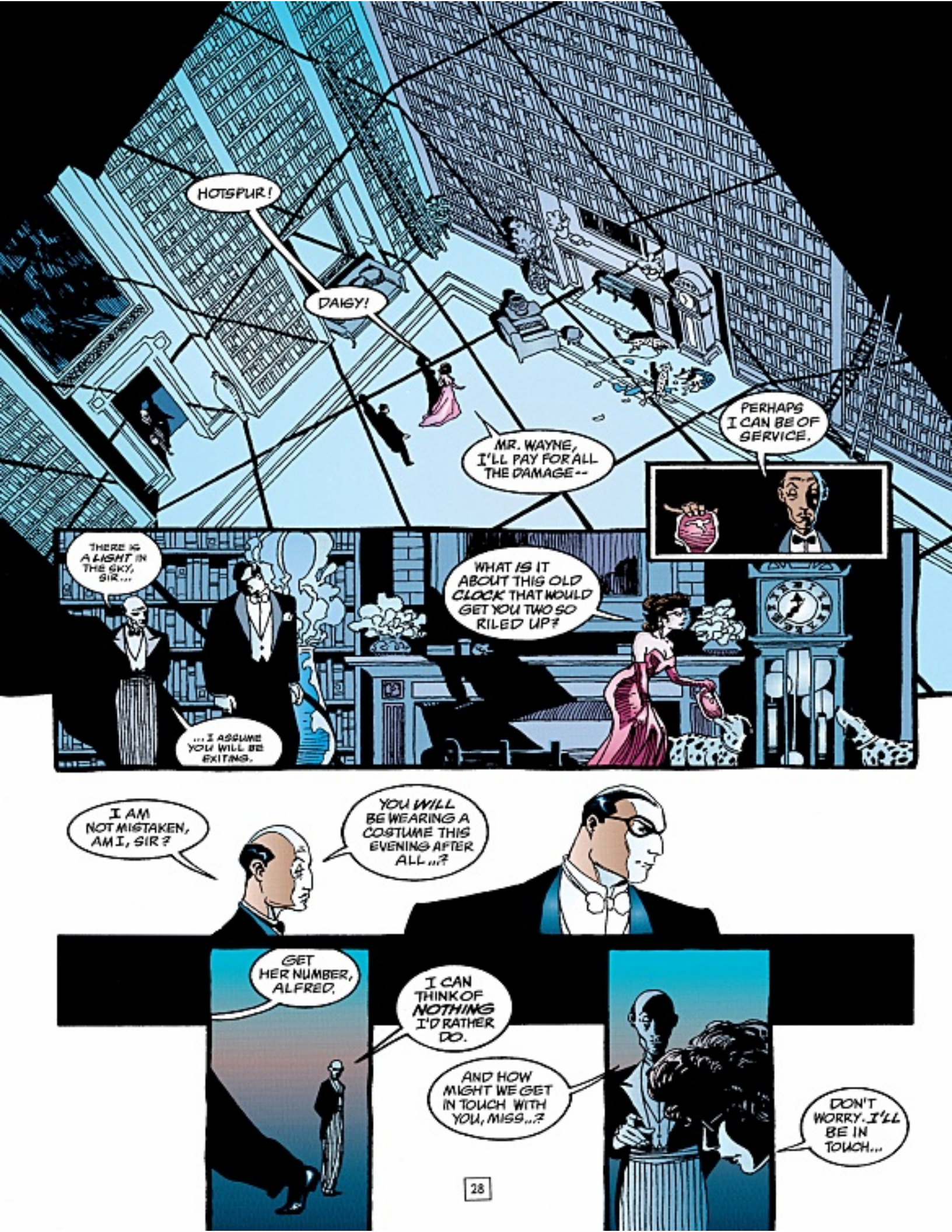
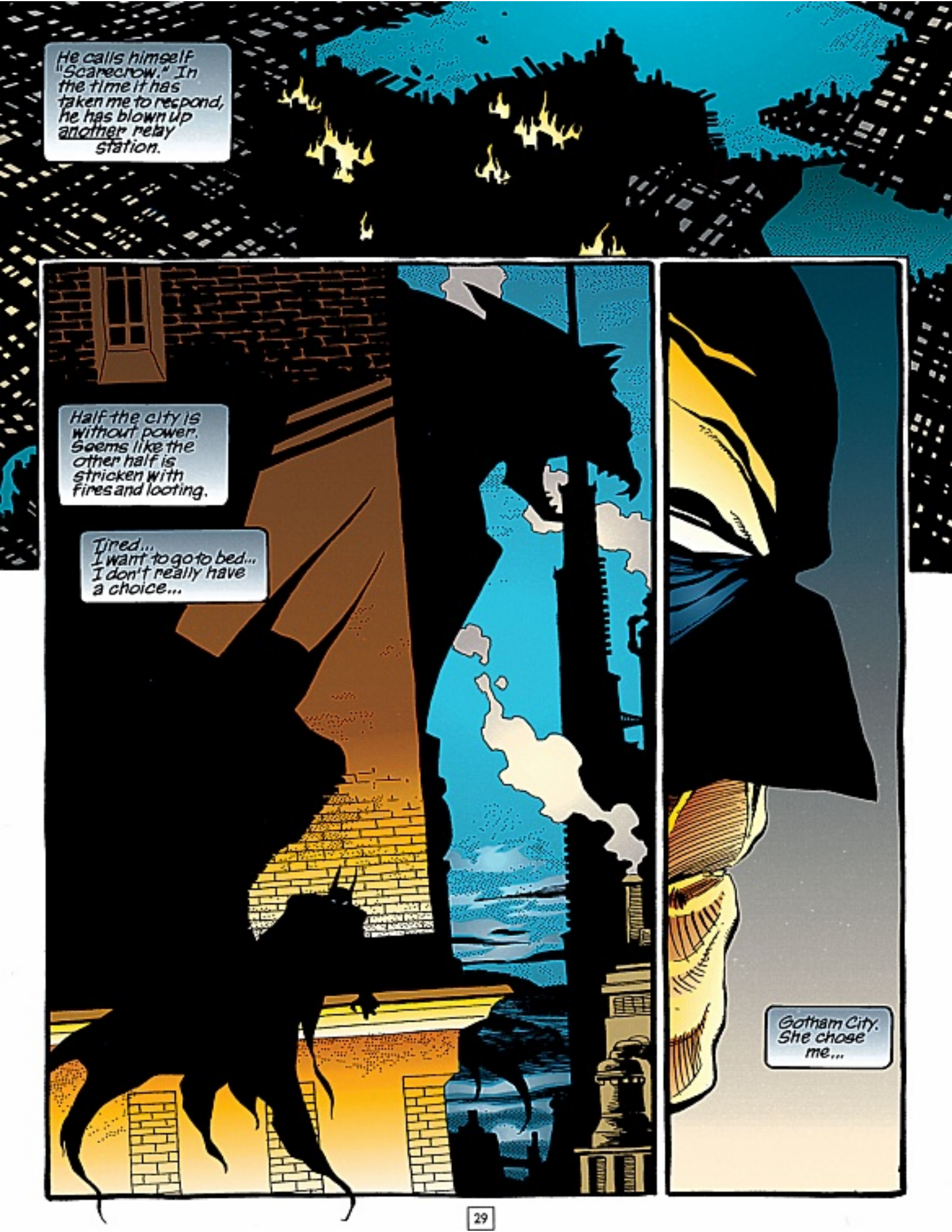

GOTHAM ELECTRIC SEEMS TO BE IN TROUBLE, BRUCE. THINK THEY WANT TO SELL?
HOISCH, BY THE TIME I KNOW, YOU'LL KNOW!
WAYNE--
JIM! GOOD OF YOU TO MAKE IT.
BARBARA HAVING A GOOD TIME?
YES, I SUPPOSE...THOUGHT I SAW HER PLAYING POOL WITH HARRISON FORD.
HE'S A DELIGHT--WHOA!
DO YOU DANCE, MR. WAYNE?
I... don't know this woman...

GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
KNICK KNACK PADDY WHACK GIVE A DOG A BONE.
ZIP IT, CRANE.
OR WE'LL ZIP IT FOR YOU.
I KNOW A MAN WHO HAD A DOG.
PLNK SSSSSSSS
HIS DOG TOLD HIM TO CUT HIS ENTIRE FAMILY INTO PIECES.
BARK.
BARK.
BARK.
BARK!
BARK!
NO... DON'T...!
WATCH OUT... AAAAAAH!


I CAN SEE YOU SPARED NO EXPENSE ON YOUR OUTFIT.
I'M... NOT MUCH FOR COSTUMES.
I DON'T KNOW YOU. DO I?
OF COURSE NOT. I'M IN DISGUISE.
DISGUISE?
YES. I DON'T USUALLY WEAR...
KRASH!
...GLASSES.
THAT WOULD BE MY DOGS...

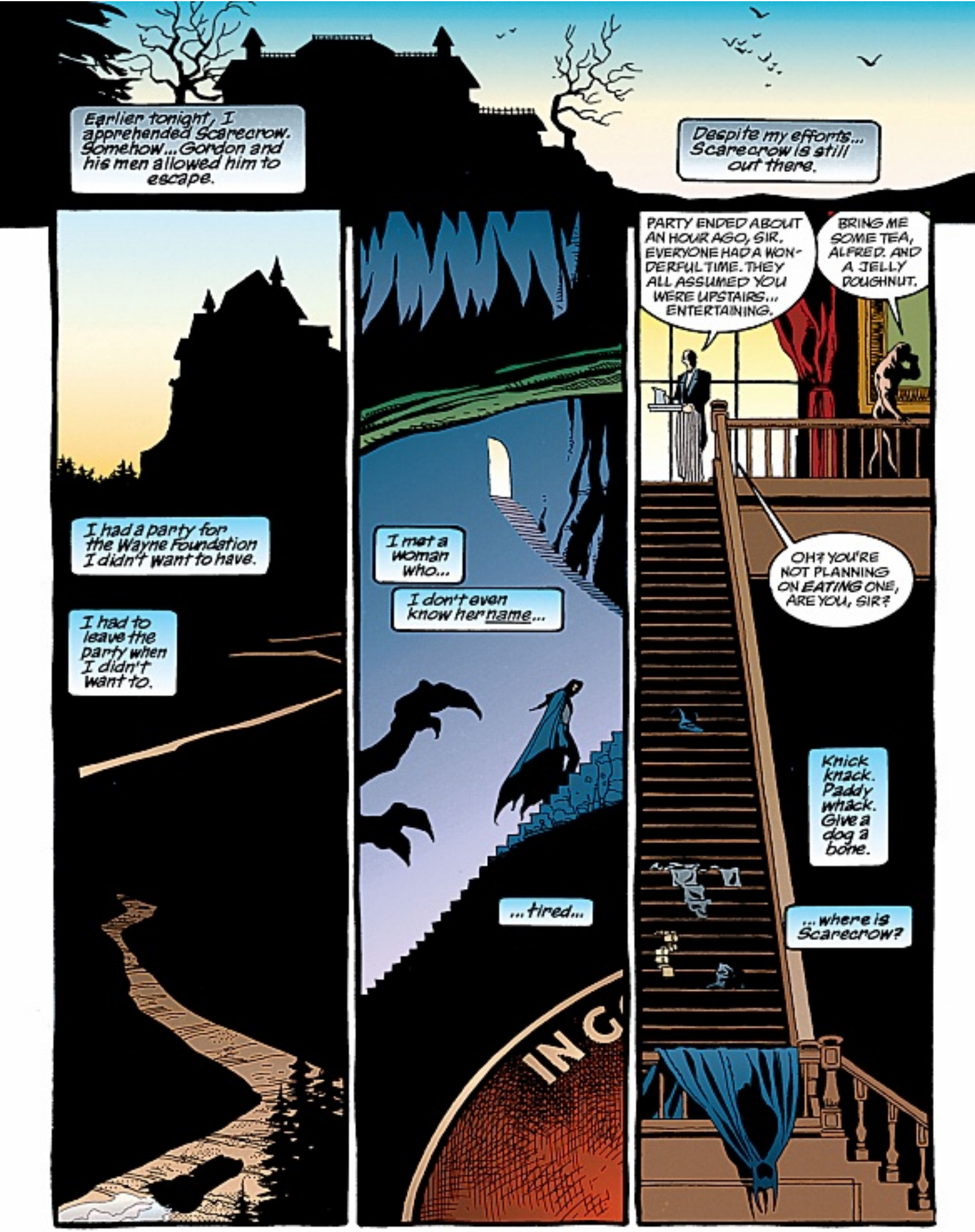

HOTSPUR!
DAISY!
MR. WAYNE, I'LL PAY FOR ALL THE DAMAGE--
PERHAPS I CAN BE OF SERVICE.
THERE IS A LIGHT IN THE SKY, SIR...
... I ASSUME YOU WILL BE EXITING.
WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS OLD CLOCK THAT WOULD GET YOU TWO SO RILED UP?
I AM NOT MISTAKEN, AM I, SIR?
YOU WILL BE WEARING A COSTUME THIS EVENING AFTER ALL...?
GET HER NUMBER, ALFRED.
I CAN THINK OF NOTHING I'D RATHER DO.
AND HOW MIGHT WE GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU, MISS...?
DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE IN TOUCH...


He calls himself "Scarecrow." In the time it has taken me to respond, he has blown up another relay station.
Half the city is without power. Seems like the other half is stricken with fires and looting.
Tired... I want to go to bed... I don't really have a choice...
Gotham City. She chose me...

Billy Bear and his trusty sidekick...

Small-time hoods trying to take advantage of a big-time situation.

HA! CUT YOU! NOT SO TOUGH, ARE YOU, BATMAN?
TOUGH ENOUGH.
He... cut me... like I was some... amateur...
Maybe... I'm more tired than I thought...

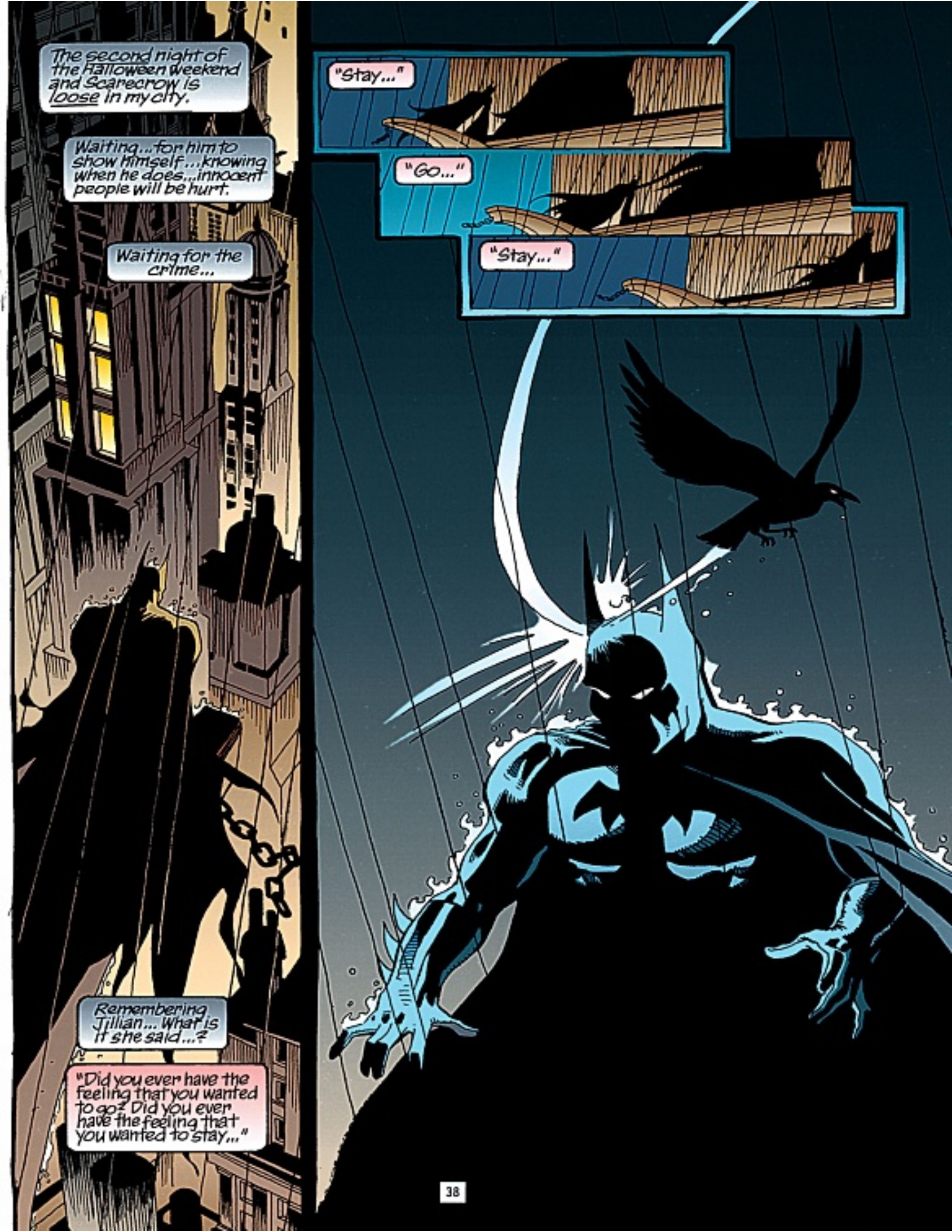

Earlier tonight, I apprehended Scarecrow. Somehow... Gordon and his men allowed him to escape.
Despite my efforts... Scarecrow is still out there.
I had a party for the Wayne Foundation I didn't want to have.
I had to leave the party when I didn't want to.
I met a woman who...
I don't even know her name...
...tired...
PARTY ENDED ABOUT AN HOUR AGO, SIR. EVERYONE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME. THEY ALL ASSUMED YOU WERE UPSTAIRS... ENTERTAINING.
BRING ME SOME TEA, ALFRED. AND A JELLY DOUGHNUT.
OH? YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON EATING ONE, ARE YOU, SIR?
Knick knack. Paddy whack. Give a dog a bone.
...where is Scarecrow?

KNOCK KNOCK
ALFRED! IT'S OPEN!
IF YOU'VE CONFUSED ME WITH MISTER PENNYWORTH, YOU REALLY MUST NEED YOUR REST.
AND YOU MUST BE QUITE RESOURCEFUL TO GET PAST "MISTER PENNYWORTH."
I'M JILLIAN MAXWELL, MR. WAYNE.
IT'S BRUCE.
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU WITHOUT YOUR GLASSES...
...JILLIAN.

II
TS

"I have to go to work..."
"Who works on a Saturday night?"
"Money never sleeps," I told her. If I were honest about it, I would've said...
"Crime never sleeps"...

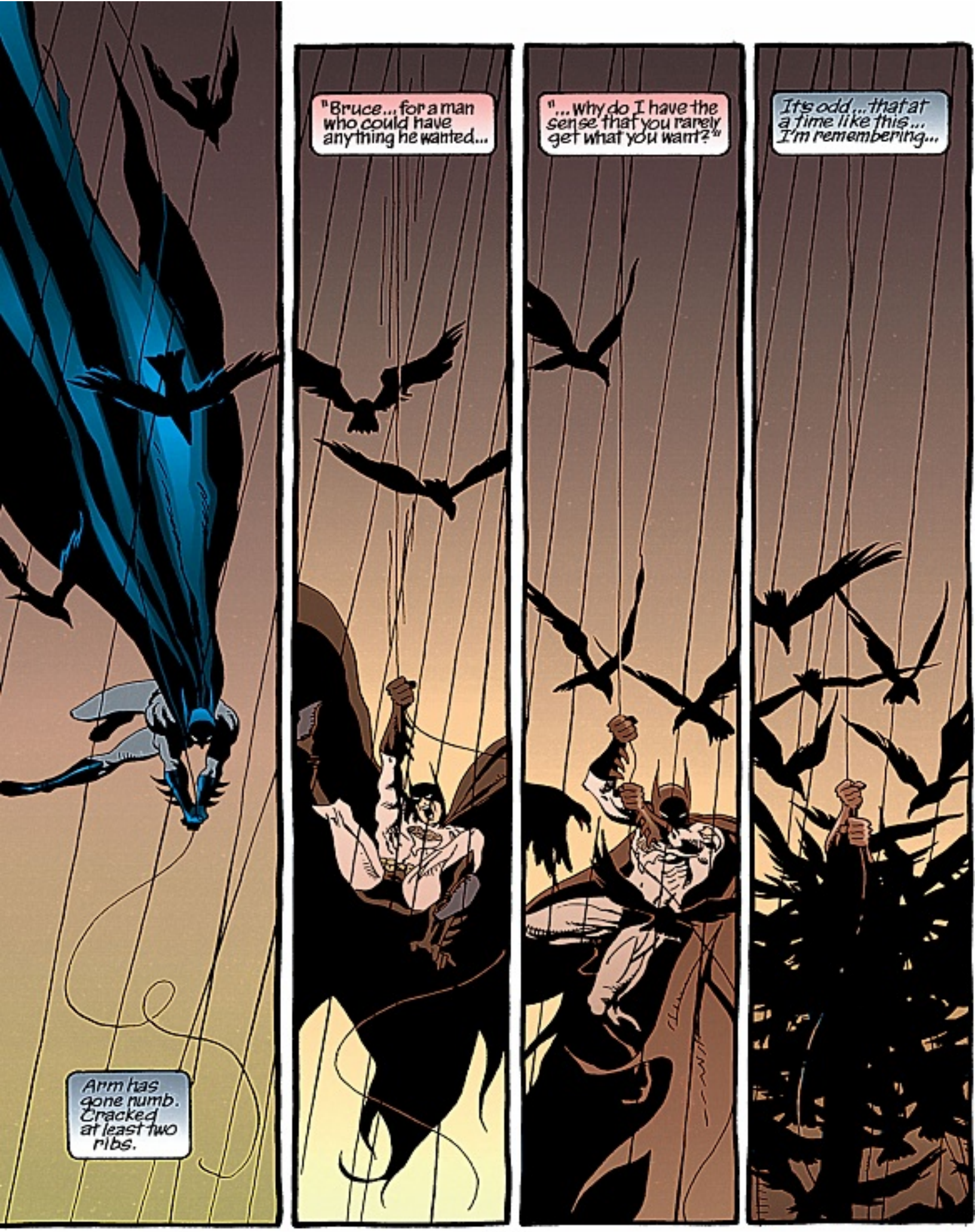
It's odd... that on a night like this... I remember my father...
The phone would ring. There was a medical emergency somewhere.
He had to go. He was needed. There was no choice.
Is that why I'm here...?


The second night of the Halloween weekend and Scarecrow is loose in my city.
Waiting...for him to show himself...knowing when he does...innocent people will be hurt.
Waiting for the crime...
Remembering Jillian... What is it she said...?
"Did you ever have the feeling that you wanted to go? Did you ever have the feeling that you wanted to stay..."
"Stay..."
"Go..."
"Stay..."

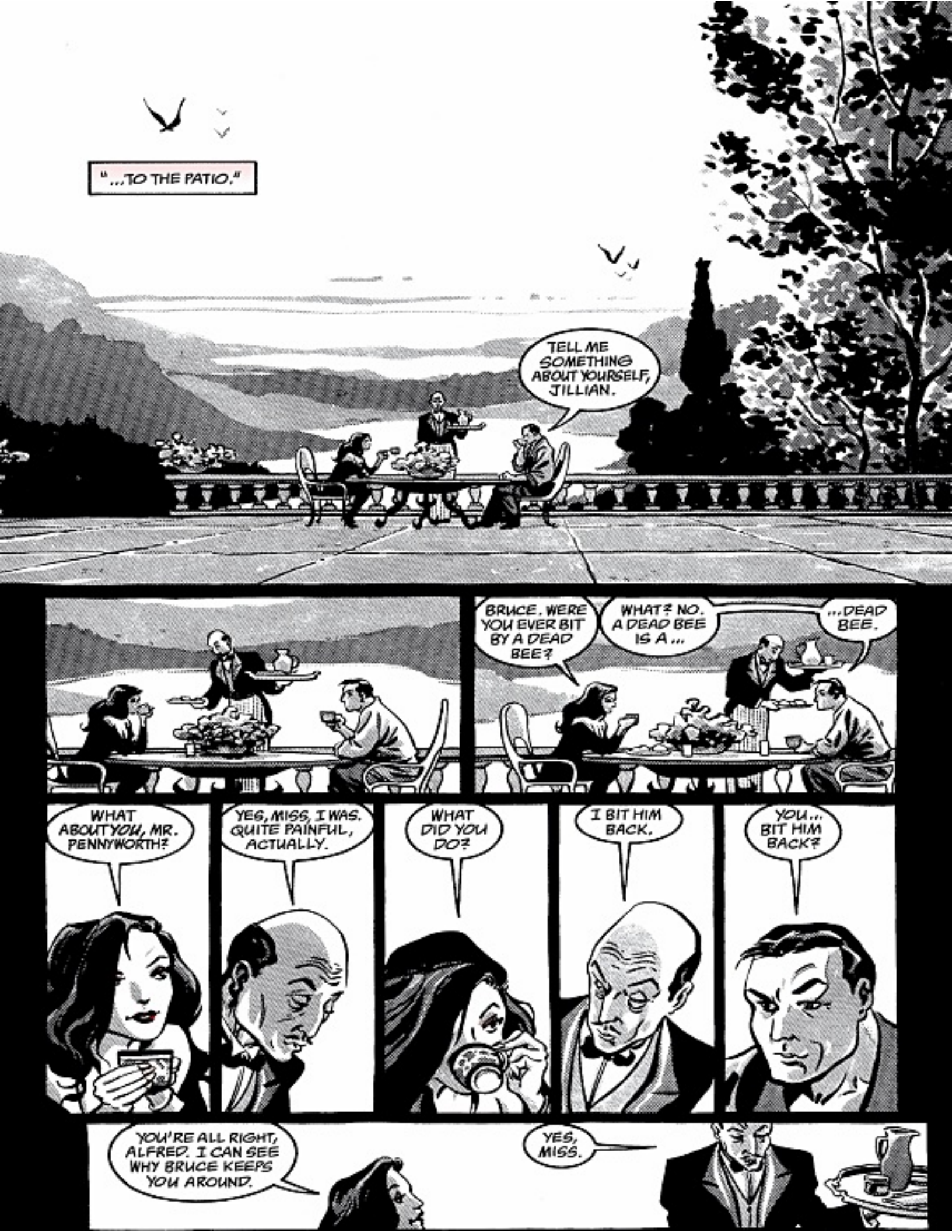
Bats...?

No...crows!

Scarecrow uses a fear toxin.
It chemically alters behavior.
Previously, his experiments were limited to humans.
This is...new...


Arm has gone numb. Cracked at least two ribs.
"Bruce... for a man who could have anything he wanted...
"... Why do I have the sense that you rarely get what you want?"
It's odd... that at a time like this... I'm remembering...

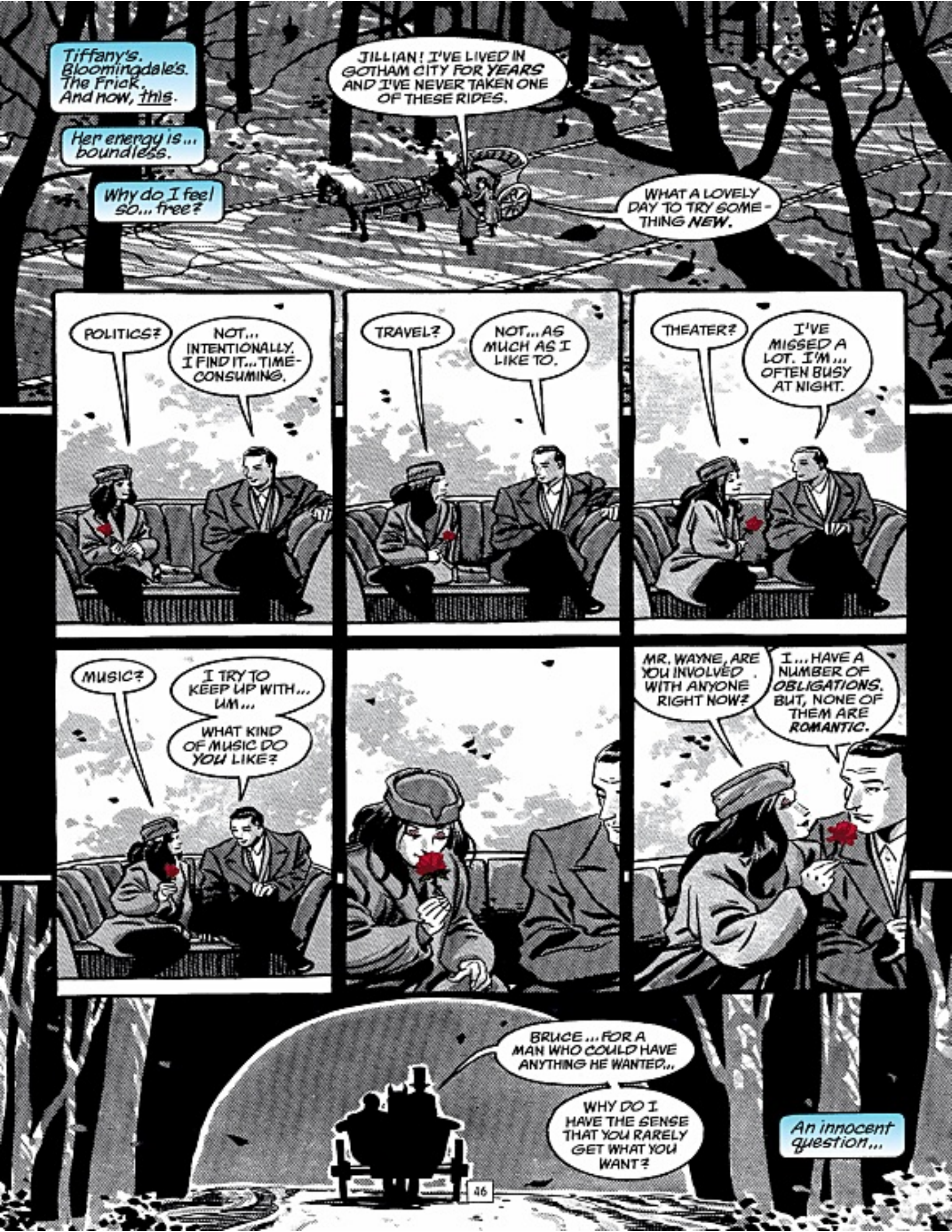
...JILLIAN.
THE...PARTY WAS EXHAUSTING. I THOUGHT I'D GET SOME SLEEP.
NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED.
YOUNG LADY!
MY APOLOGIES, MASTER BRUCE. I SET YOUR TEA SERVING DOWN FOR ONLY A MOMENT--
--AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNEW--
-- MISS MAXWELL WAS IN MY BEDROOM.
THIS SORT OF THING MUST HAPPEN A LOT TO YOU MILLIONAIRE PLAYBOYS.
WE'RE UPSETTING MR. PENNYWORTH, BRUCE.
TELL YOU WHAT. WHY DON'T WE ADJOURN...


"...TO THE PATIO."
TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF, JILLIAN.
BRUCE, WERE YOU EVER BIT BY A DEAD BEE?
WHAT? NO. A DEAD BEE IS A...
...DEAD BEE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MR. PENNYWORTH?
YES, MISS, I WAS. QUITE PAINFUL, ACTUALLY.
WHAT DID YOU DO?
I BIT HIM BACK.
YOU... BIT HIM BACK?
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, ALFRED. I CAN SEE WHY BRUCE KEEPS YOU AROUND.
YES, MISS.

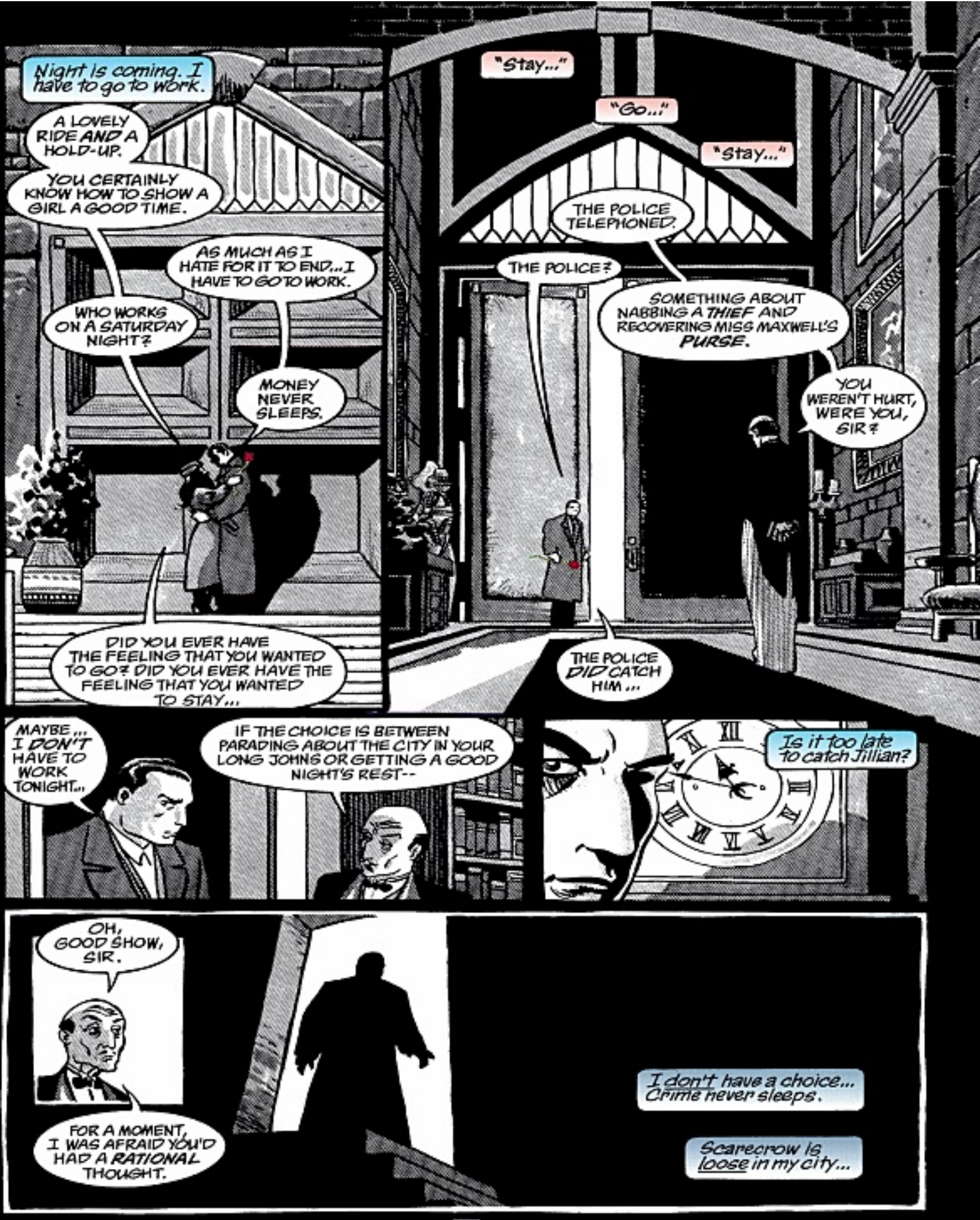
Jillian wants to go for a ride. And I'm beginning to suspect--
--what Jillian wants... Jillian gets.
WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT A DEAD BEE?
MISS JILLIAN APPARENTLY HAS A UNIQUE SENSE OF HUMOR--
--AS WELL AS A LOVE FOR OLD FILM DIALOGUE.
THE BUS IS LEAVING!

THEN, YOU TWO SHOULD GET ALONG FAMOUSLY.
IF I MAY SAY SO, SIR. IT'S NOT ME WHO HAS TO GET ALONG WITH HER.

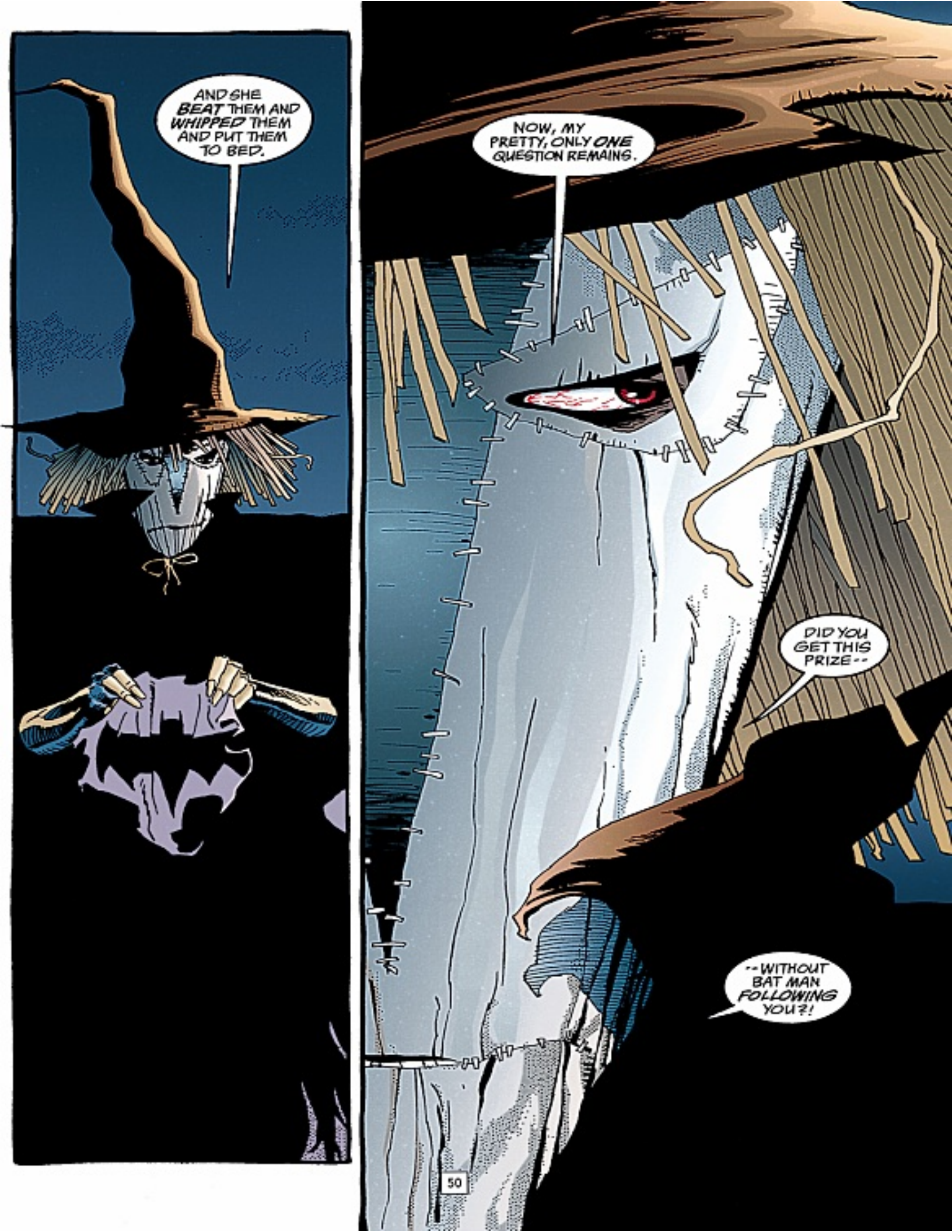
THERE'S... SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THIS ONE, ALFRED.

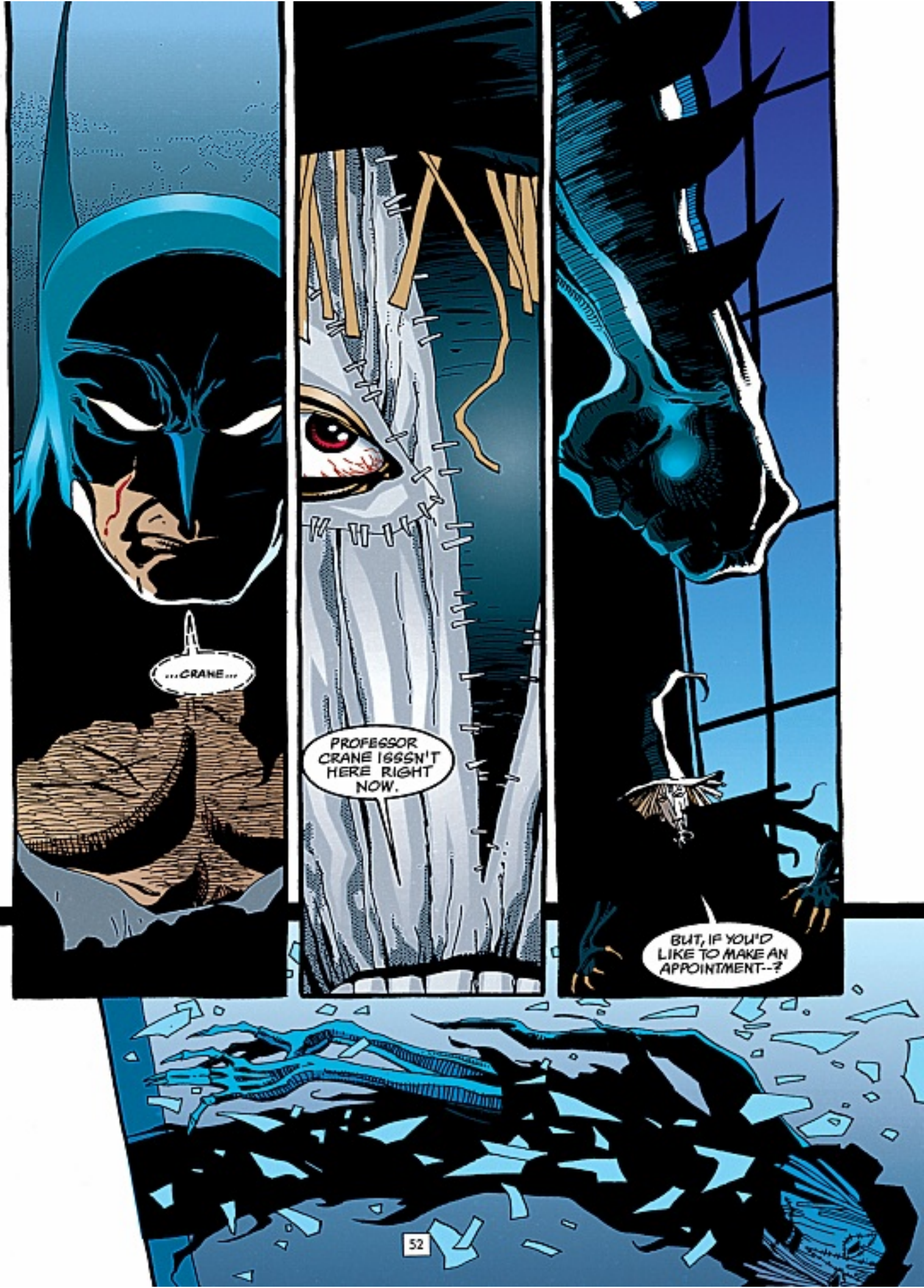

Tiffany's. Bloomingdale's. The Frick. And now, this.
Her energy is... boundless.
Why do I feel so... free?
JILLIAN! I'VE LIVED IN GOTHAM CITY FOR YEARS AND I'VE NEVER TAKEN ONE OF THESE RIDES.
WHAT A LOVELY DAY TO TRY SOMETHING NEW.
POLITICS?
NOT... INTENTIONALLY. I FIND IT... TIME-CONSUMING.
TRAVEL?
NOT... AS MUCH AS I LIKE TO.
THEATER?
I'VE MISSED A LOT. I'M... OFTEN BUSY AT NIGHT.
MUSIC?
I TRY TO KEEP UP WITH... UM...
WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LIKE?
MR. WAYNE, ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH ANYONE RIGHT NOW?
I... HAVE A NUMBER OF OBLIGATIONS. BUT, NONE OF THEM ARE ROMANTIC.
BRUCE... FOR A MAN WHO COULD HAVE ANYTHING HE WANTED...
WHY DO I HAVE THE SENSE THAT YOU RARELY GET WHAT YOU WANT?
An innocent question...

...answered by my reality.
I'M ONLY GONNA ASK YOUSE ONCE.
GIMME THE LADY'S PURSE.
DON'T!
DON'T BE NO HERO, BUB!
SORRY, FOLKS. I'LL...GO CALL THE COPS.
SEE, THE POLICE WILL HANDLE IT.
BRUCE, IT'S ONLY MONEY.
IT'S NOT WORTH YOUR LIFE.


Night is coming. I have to go to work.
A LOVELY RIDE AND A HOLD-UP.
YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO SHOW A GIRL A GOOD TIME.
AS MUCH AS I HATE FOR IT TO END... I HAVE TO GO TO WORK.
WHO WORKS ON A SATURDAY NIGHT?
MONEY NEVER SLEEPS.
DID YOU EVER HAVE THE FEELING THAT YOU WANTED TO GO? DID YOU EVER HAVE THE FEELING THAT YOU WANTED TO STAY...
"Stay..."
"Go..."
"Stay..."
THE POLICE TELEPHONED.
THE POLICE?
SOMETHING ABOUT NABBING A THIEF AND RECOVERING MISS MAXWELL'S PURSE.
YOU WEREN'T HURT, WERE YOU, SIR?
THE POLICE DID CATCH HIM...
MAYBE... I DON'T HAVE TO WORK TONIGHT...
IF THE CHOICE IS BETWEEN PARADING ABOUT THE CITY IN YOUR LONG JOHNS OR GETTING A GOOD NIGHT'S REST--
Is it too late to catch Jillian?
OH, GOOD SHOW, SIR.
FOR A MOMENT, I WAS AFRAID YOU'D HAD A RATIONAL THOUGHT.
I don't have a choice... Crime never sleeps.
Scarecrow is loose in my city...

I KNOW AN OLD WOMAN...
WHO LIVED IN A SHOE...
SHE HAD SO MANY CHILDREN...
SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
SHE GAVE THEM SOME BROTH...
BUT GAVE THEM NO BREAD...


AND SHE BEAT THEM AND WHIPPED THEM AND PUT THEM TO BED.
NOW, MY PRETTY, ONLY ONE QUESTION REMAINS.
DID YOU GET THIS PRIZE--
--WITHOUT BAT MAN FOLLOWING YOU?!


...CRANE...
PROFESSOR CRANE IGSSN'T HERE RIGHT NOW.
BUT, IF YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT--?

OR HARD.
TWO CHOICES.
EASY.
IF WE HAD A COMPASS, WE'D KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO.
NORTH
SOUTH
EAST
WEST.

The Gotham Central Park Maze. I thought it was closed.

Years ago, two children wandered in. The police searched and searched.

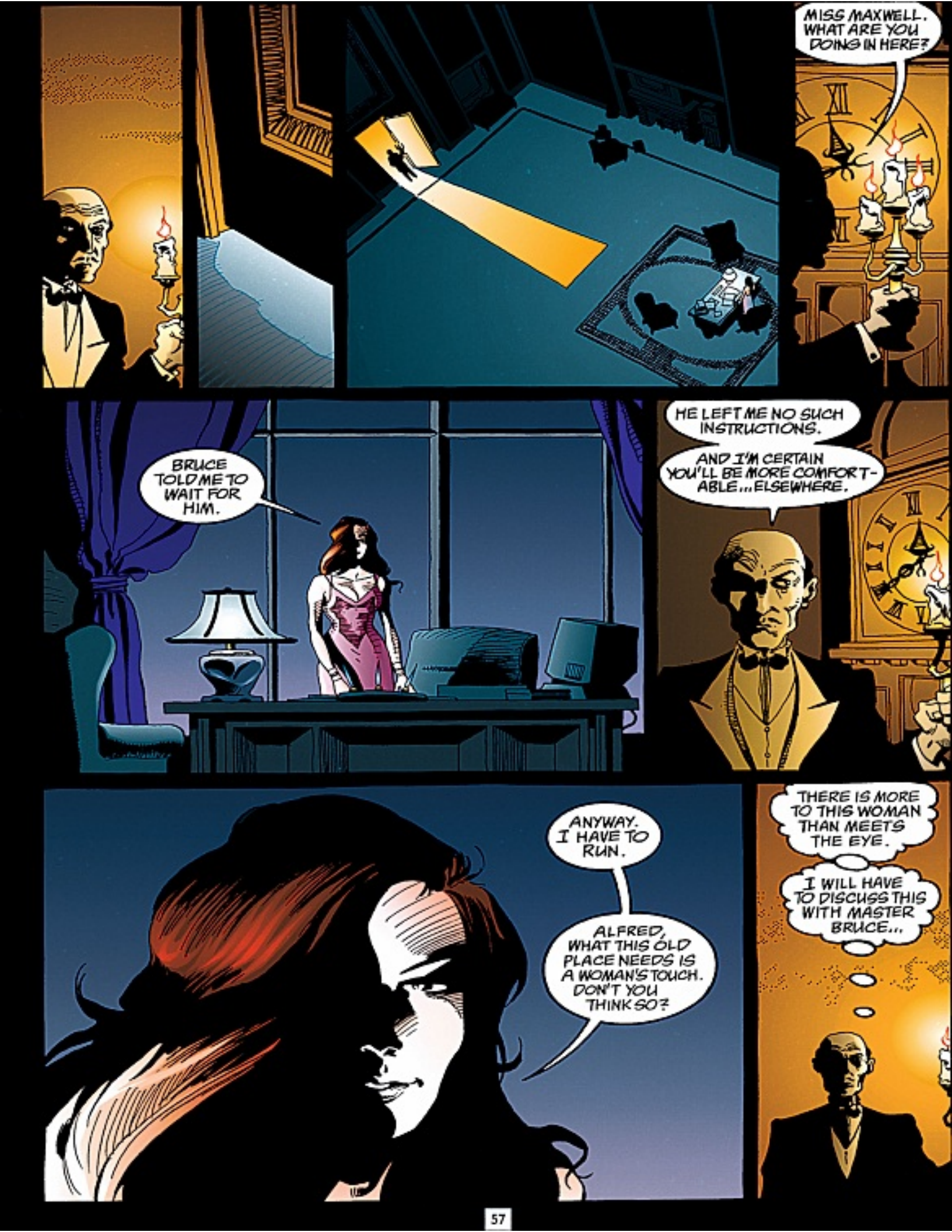
When they found them, it was too late... the children were...

The place should have been burned to the ground...

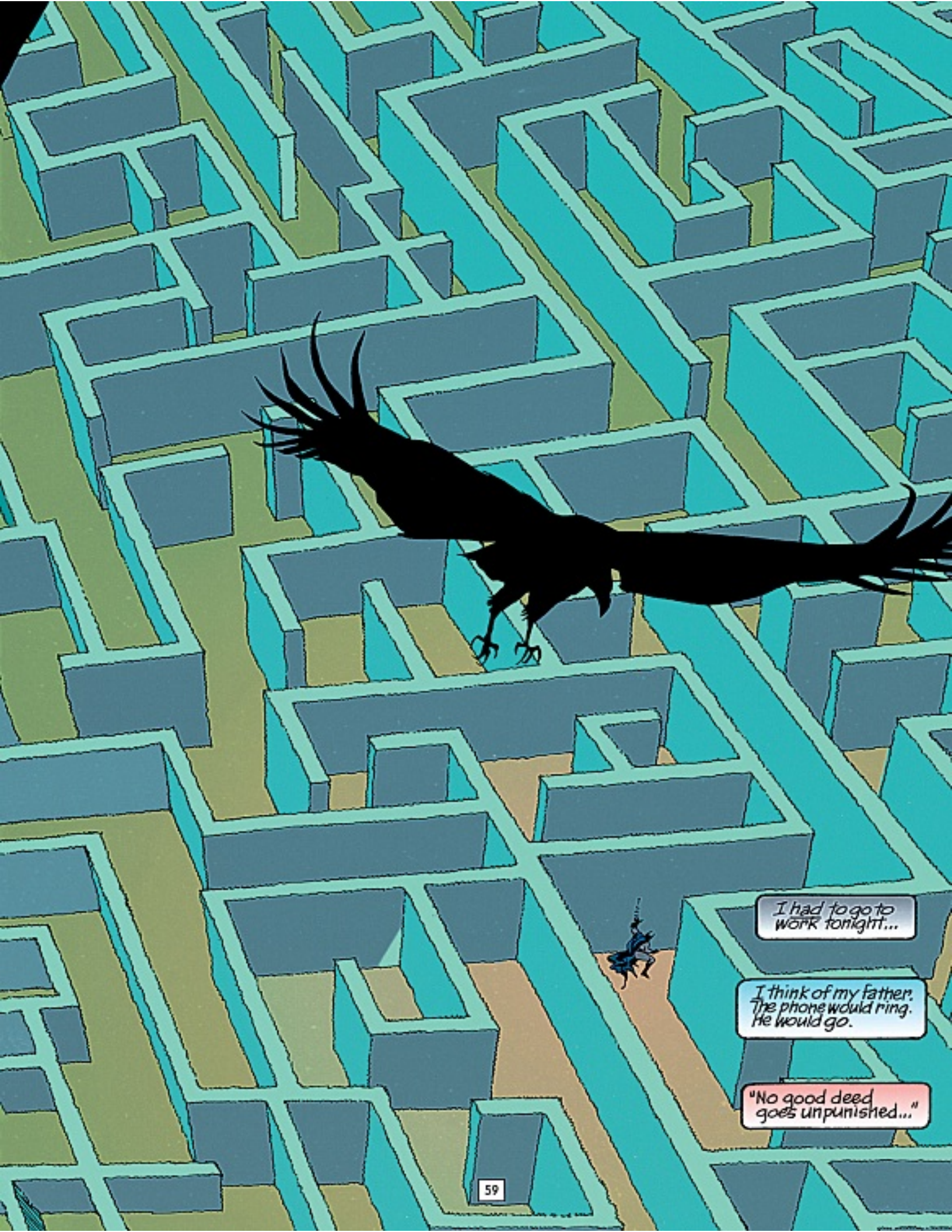
SEE HOW THEY RUN.

Around this corner, he's--
...gone...
SEE
HOW
SCARECROW!
THEY
...the thorns...
RUN
...scarecrow...
...poison...

SEE
HOW
THEY
RUN

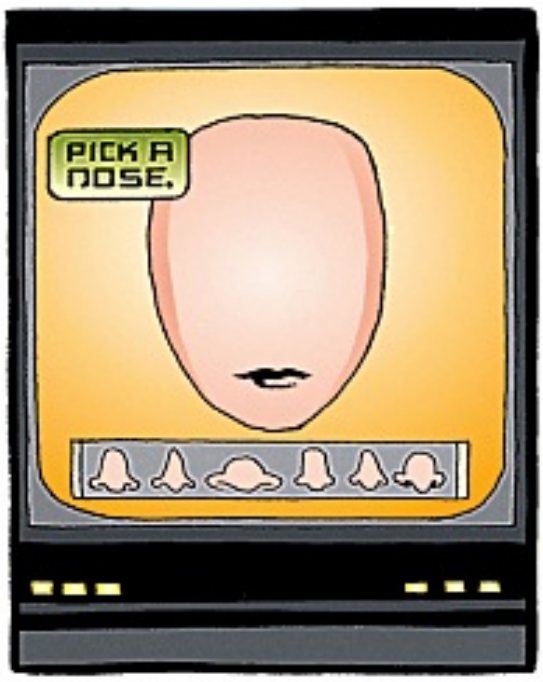

MISS MAXWELL. WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?
BRUCE TOLD ME TO WAIT FOR HIM.
HE LEFT ME NO SUCH INSTRUCTIONS.
AND I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL BE MORE COMFORTABLE... ELSEWHERE.
ANYWAY. I HAVE TO RUN.
ALFRED, WHAT THIS OLD PLACE NEEDS IS A WOMAN'S TOUCH. DON'T YOU THINK SO?
THERE IS MORE TO THIS WOMAN THAN MEETS THE EYE.
I WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH MASTER BRUCE...

--WHEN HE GETS HOME...!


I had to go to work tonight...
I think of my father. The phone would ring. He would go.
"No good deed goes unpunished..."

TS

ENTER MOUTH #2345*%


PICK A NOSE.

SOFTWARE HUMOR.
HOW... DROLL.

EYES?

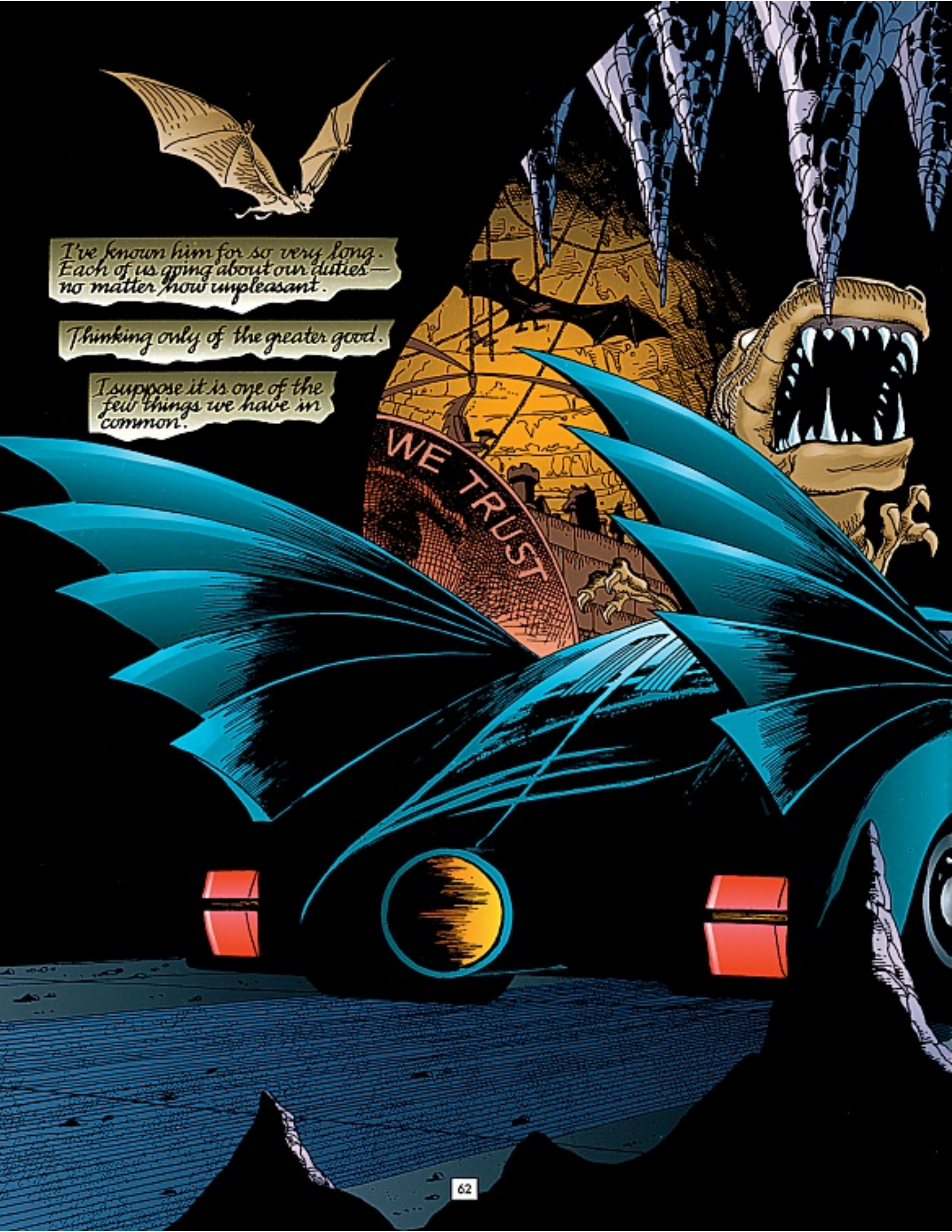
TWO OUGHT TO DO NICELY.

SEARCHING...

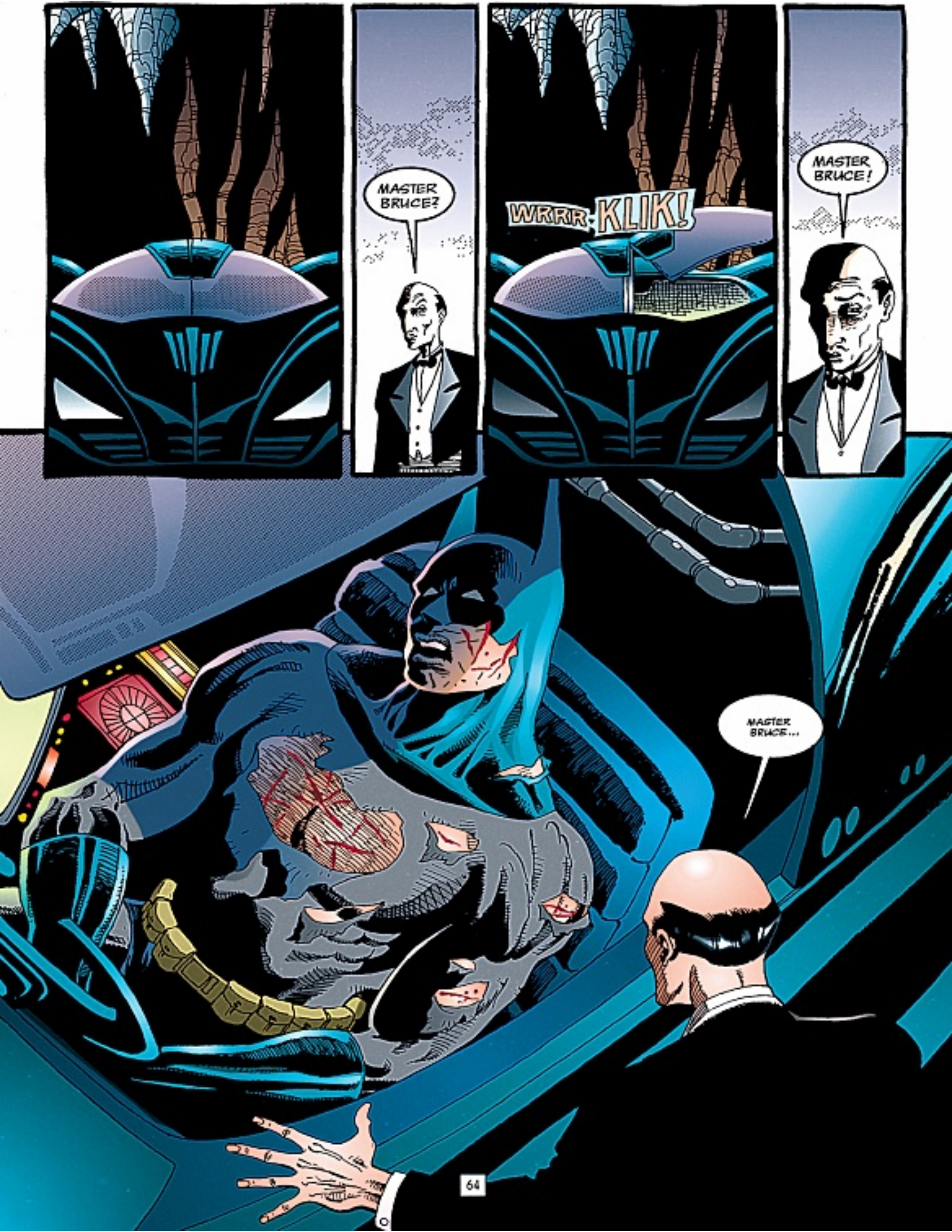
FBI
CIA
INTERPOL
SCOTLAND YARD
KGB

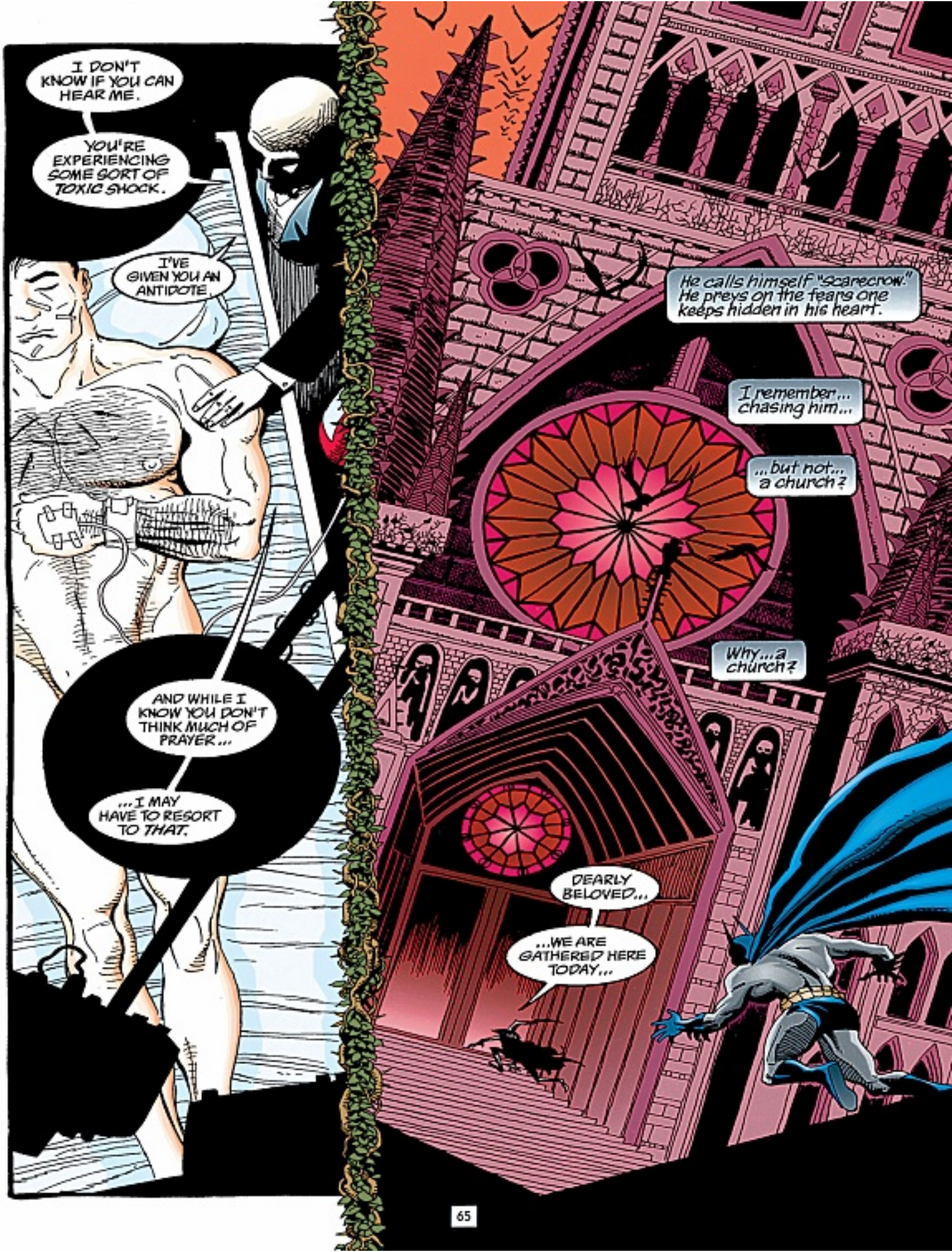
DING!
GOOD LORD.

HE'S HOME JUST IN TIME...


I've known him for so very long. Each of us going about our duties— no matter how unpleasant.
Thinking only of the greater good.
I suppose it is one of the few things we have in common.
WE TRUST

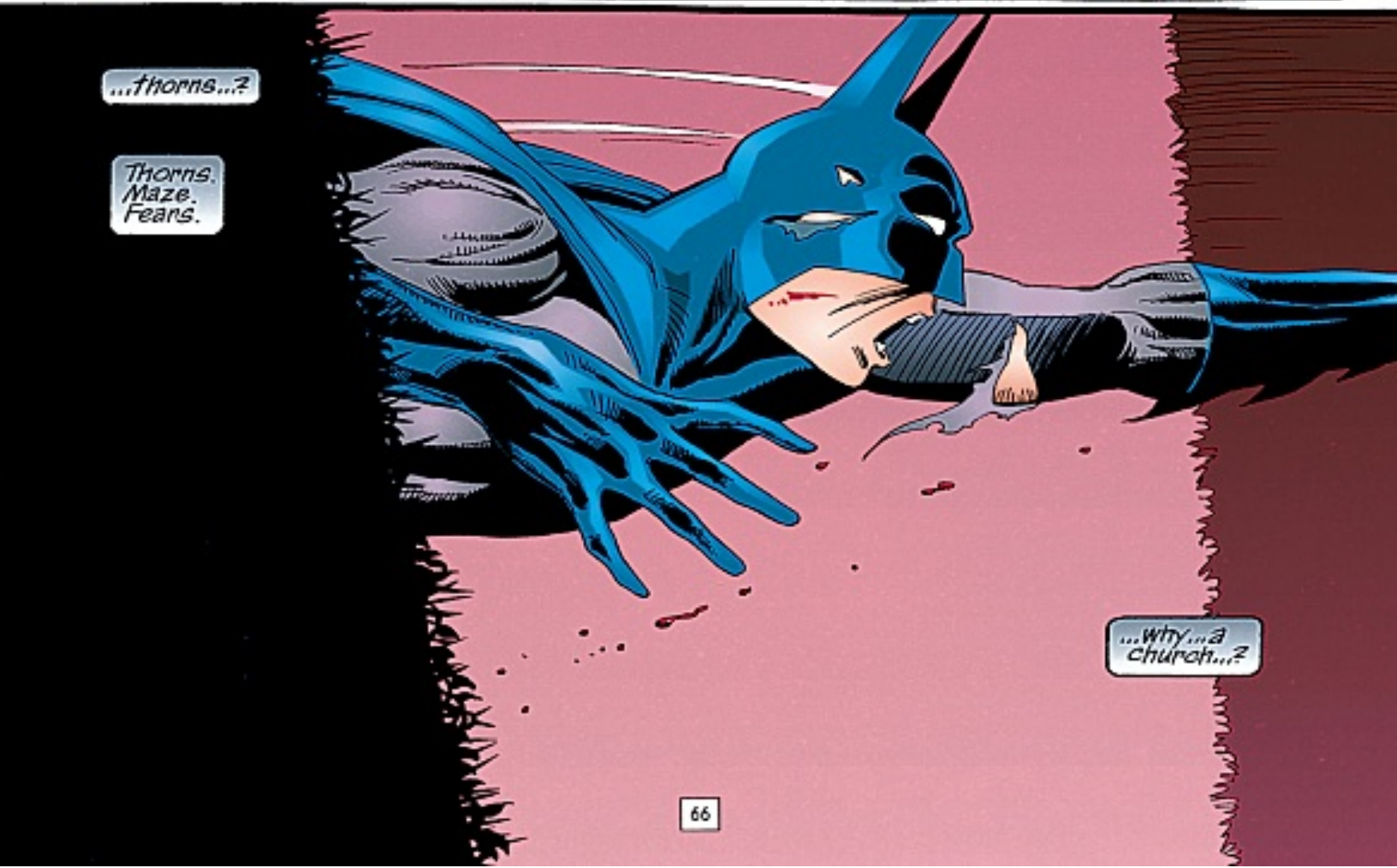
MASTER BRUCE.
But tonight, I fear, I have a task which is... most unpleasant...


MASTER BRUCE?
WRRR-KLIK!
MASTER BRUCE!
MASTER BRUCE...

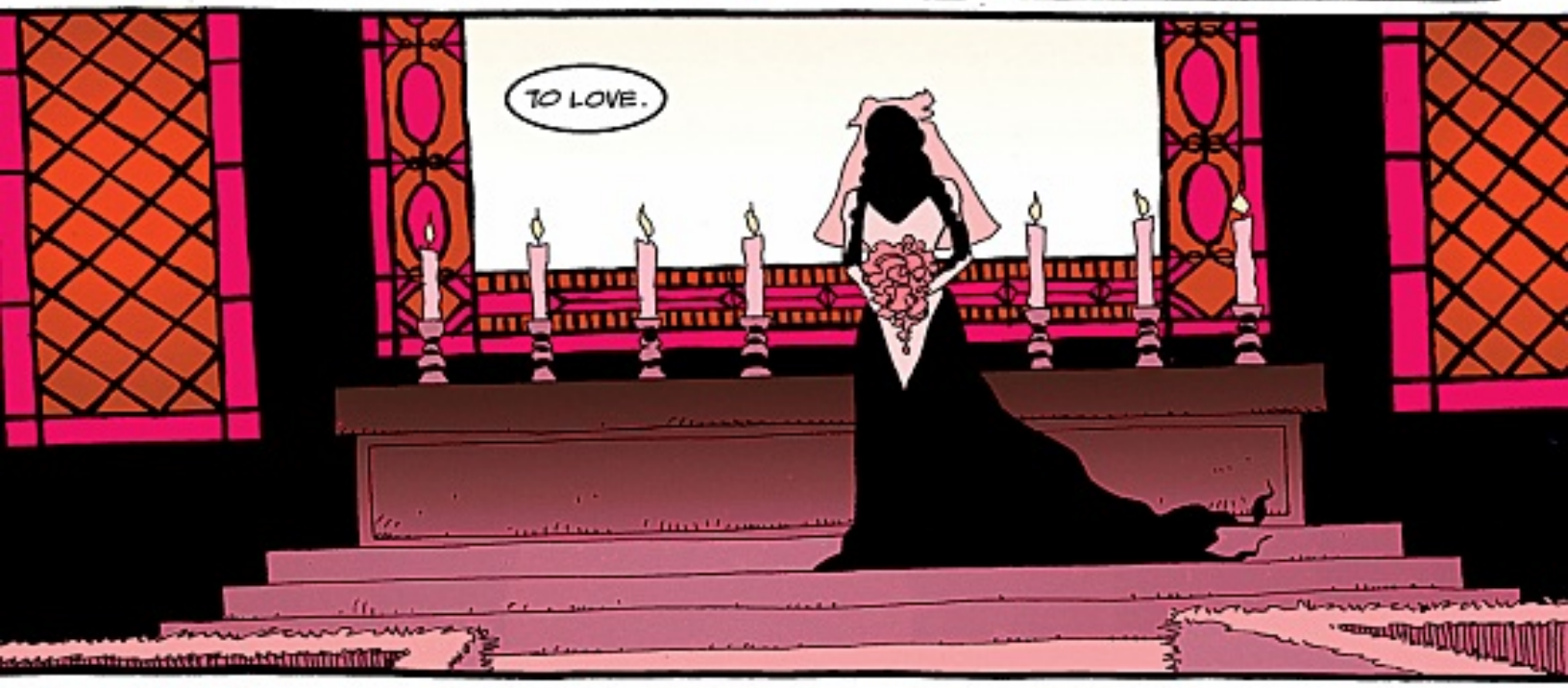

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME.
YOU'RE EXPERIENCING SOME SORT OF TOXIC SHOCK.
I'VE GIVEN YOU AN ANTIDOTE.
AND WHILE I KNOW YOU DON'T THINK MUCH OF PRAYER...
...I MAY HAVE TO RESORT TO THAT.
He calls himself "Scarecrow." He preys on the fears one keeps hidden in his heart.
I remember... chasing him...
...but not... a church?
Why...a church?
DEARLY BELOVED...
...WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY...

...not a church... a maze!
...TO WITNESS THE UNION OF TWO PEOPLE.

A UNION THAT IS A SACRED TRUST.


...thorns...?
Thorns. Maze. Fears.
...why...a church...?

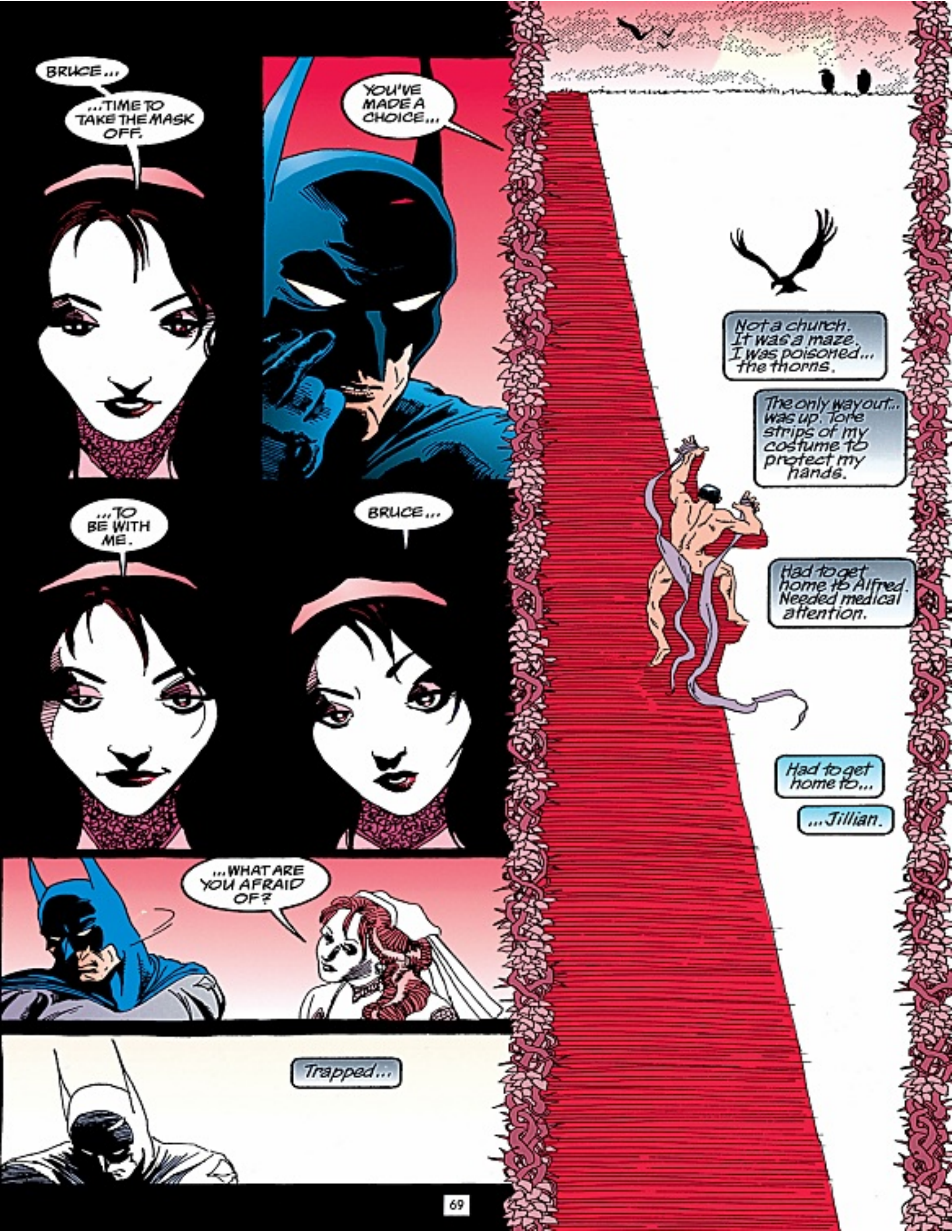
DO YOU, BATMAN, PROMISE--


TO LOVE.

TO HONOR.

TO OBEY.

So. help. you. God.
Thorns. Maze. Fears. Church...
...Jillian.
Jillian.

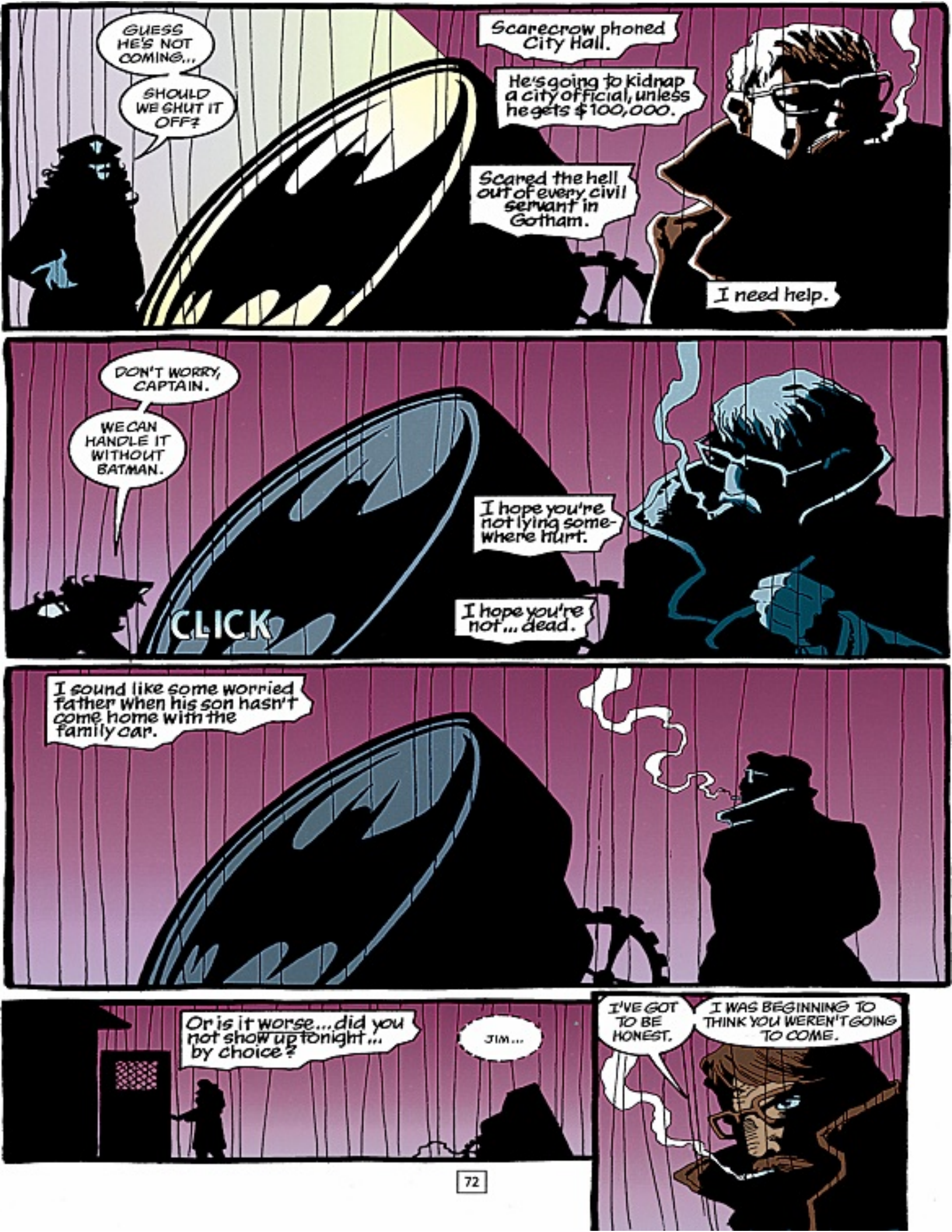

BRUCE...
...TIME TO TAKE THE MASK OFF.
YOU'VE MADE A CHOICE...
...TO BE WITH ME.
BRUCE...
...WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
Trapped...
Not a church. It was a maze. I was poisoned... the thorns.
The only way out... was up. Tore strips of my costume to protect my hands.
Had to get home to Alfred. Needed medical attention.
Had to get home to...
...Jillian.

BUT...SIR... THERE IS A MATTER OF GRAVE URGENCY... REGARDING...

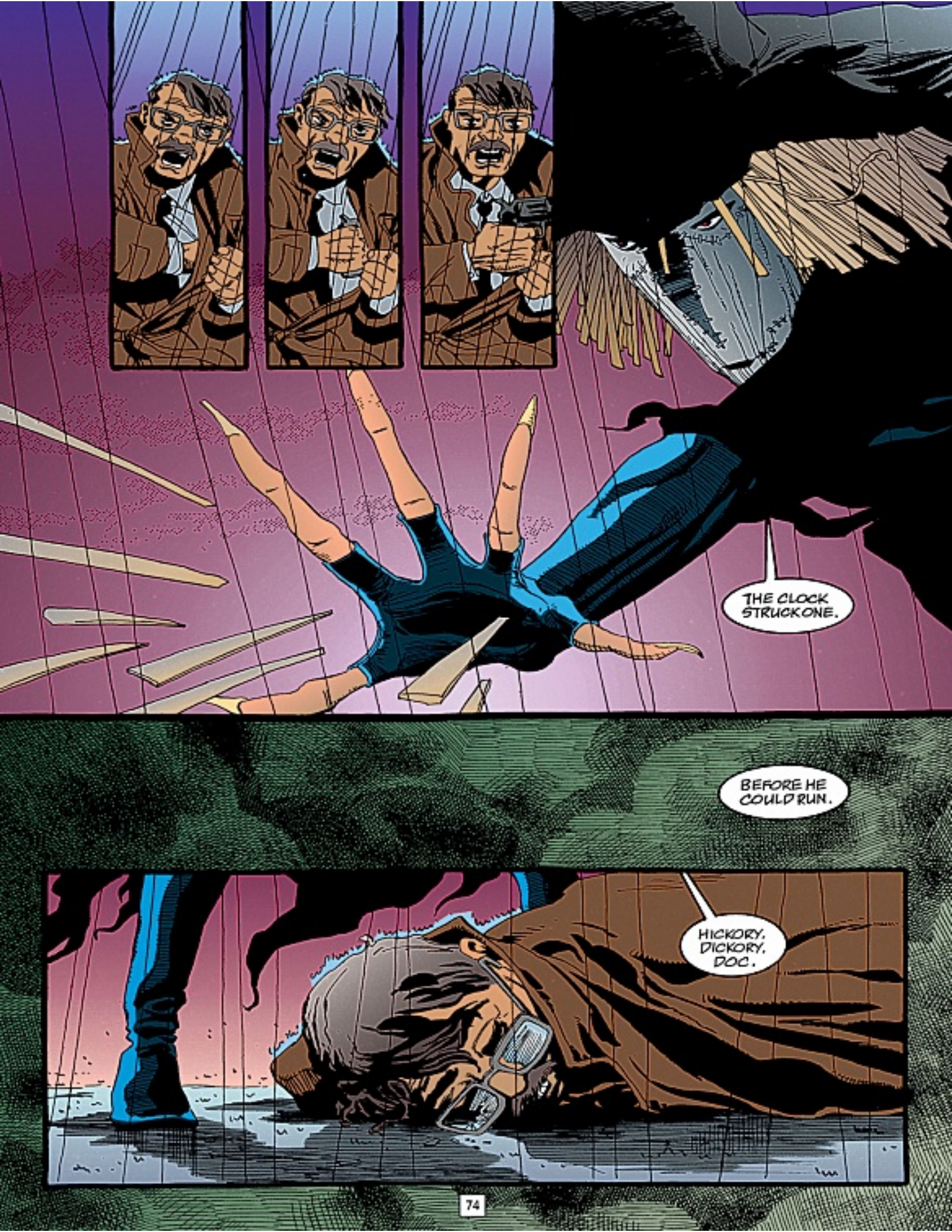
MISS JILLIAN.

SOMEBODY MENTION MY NAME?

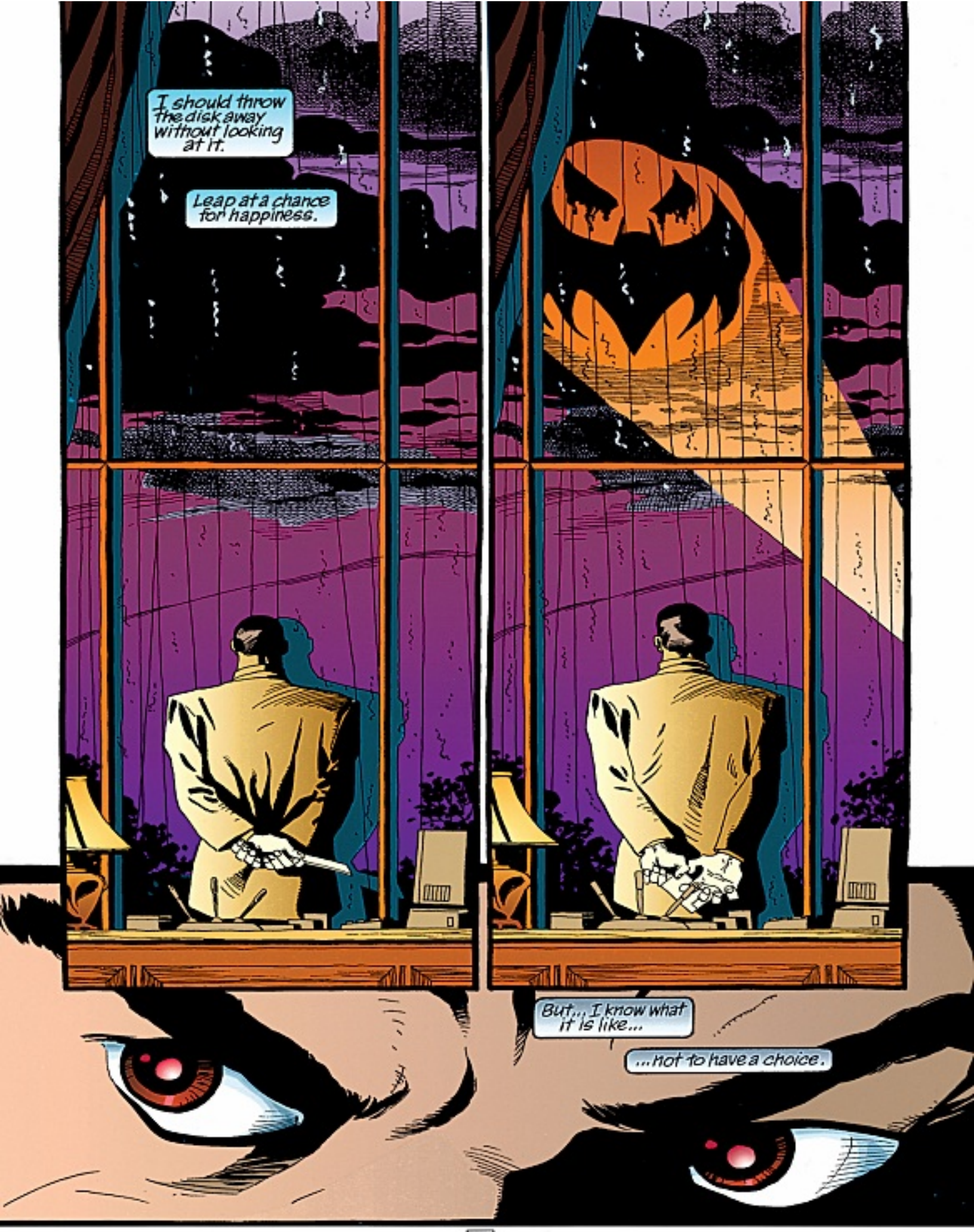
JILLIAN.
SEEMS I'M ALWAYS FINDING YOU IN BED.
ALFRED, GIVE ME A MOMENT WITH MISS MAXWELL.
ALONE.
...AS YOU WISH, SIR.
YOU LOOK POSITIVELY GREEN AROUND THE GILLS.
AH... FOOD POISONING. I'M FINE, NOW... BUT...
JILLIAN...
I'M THINKING ABOUT TAKING SOME TIME OFF. TO TRAVEL.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCOMPANY ME?
ARE YOU SURE? WHAT ABOUT YOUR... RESPONSIBILITIES?
NO, I'M NOT SURE.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO DO THIS.

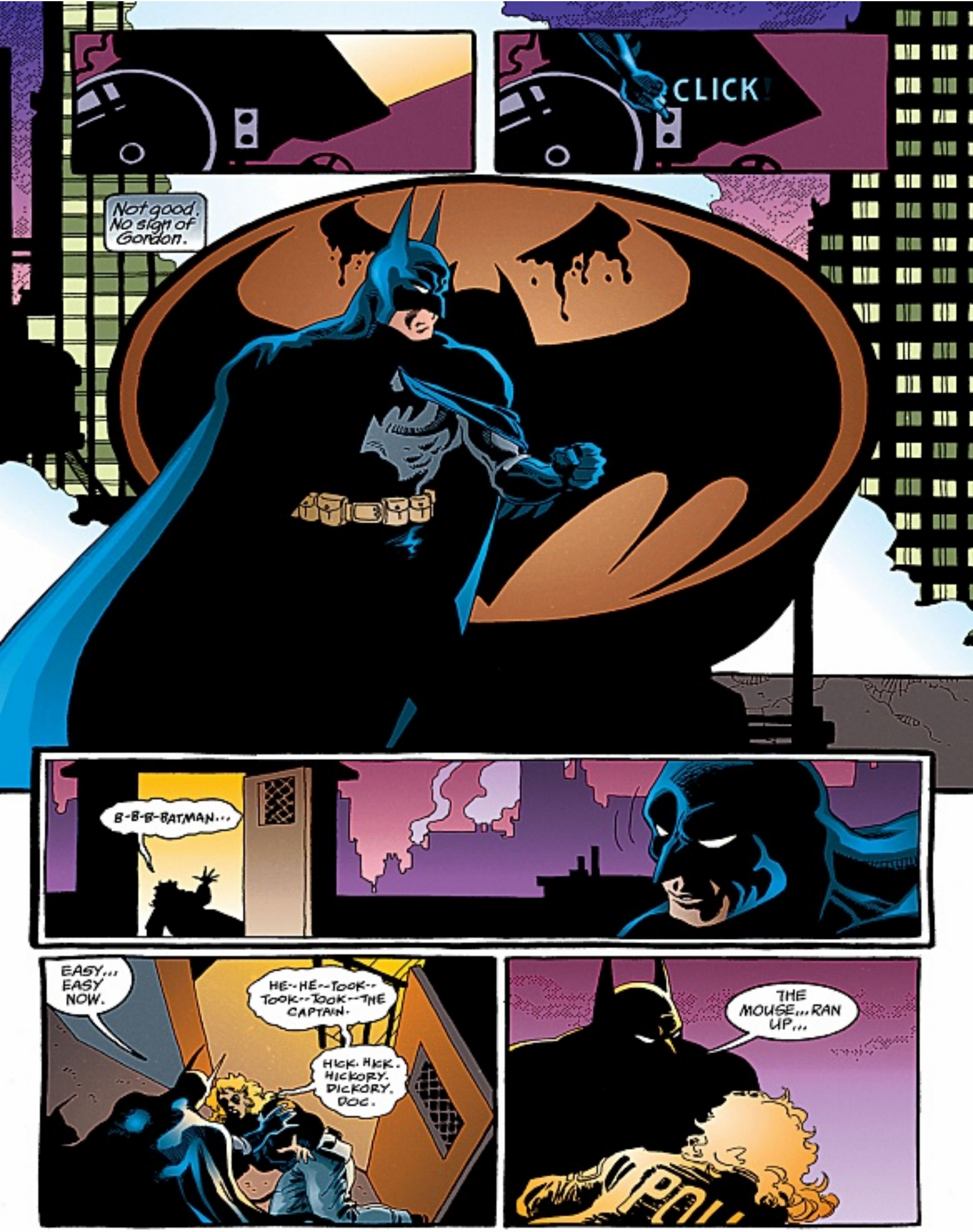

GUESS HE'S NOT COMING...
SHOULD WE SHUT IT OFF?
Scarecrow phoned City Hall.
He's going to kidnap a city official, unless he gets $100,000.
Scared the hell out of every civil servant in Gotham.
I need help.
DON'T WORRY, CAPTAIN.
WE CAN HANDLE IT WITHOUT BATMAN.
I hope you're not lying somewhere hurt.
CLICK
I hope you're not... dead.
I sound like some worried father when his son hasn't come home with the family car.
Or is it worse... did you not show up tonight... by choice?
JIM...
I'VE GOT TO BE HONEST.
I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WEREN'T GOING TO COME.

HICKORY.
DICKORY.
DOC.
YOU!?
THE MOUSE RAN UP THE CLOCK.


THE CLOCK STRUCK ONE.
BEFORE HE COULD RUN.
HICKORY, DICKORY, DOC.

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE QUITE READY TO BE UP AND AROUND.
FOR ONCE, I AGREE WITH YOU.
THAT'S WHY I'D LIKE YOU TO PACK A STEAMER TRUNK FOR ME.
THE... STEAMER...?
AROUND THE WORLD. THE LA PALOMA LEAVES PIER 27 AT MIDNIGHT.
AND JILLIAN AND I WILL BE ON IT.
JILLIAN...?
BEFORE YOU DO THAT, SIR, I'D ASK THAT YOU LOOK AT THIS.
I'M SURE IT CAN WAIT, ALFRED.
I HAD THE COMPUTER CHECK ON MISS JILLIAN MAXWELL.
YOU HAD NO RIGHT.
I KNOW, SIR. BUT, WHEN YOU CARE FOR SOMEONE AS I DO YOU...
...I HAD NO CHOICE.
I'LL TENDER MY RESIGNATION, IF THAT IS YOUR WISH.


I should throw the disk away without looking at it.
Leap at a chance for happiness.
But... I know what it is like...
...not to have a choice.


CLICK!
Not good. No sign of Gordon.
B-B-B-BATMAN...
EASY... EASY NOW.
HE--HE--TOOK--TOOK--TOOK--THE CAPTAIN.
HICK. HICK. HICKORY. DICKORY. DOC.
THE MOUSE... RAN UP...

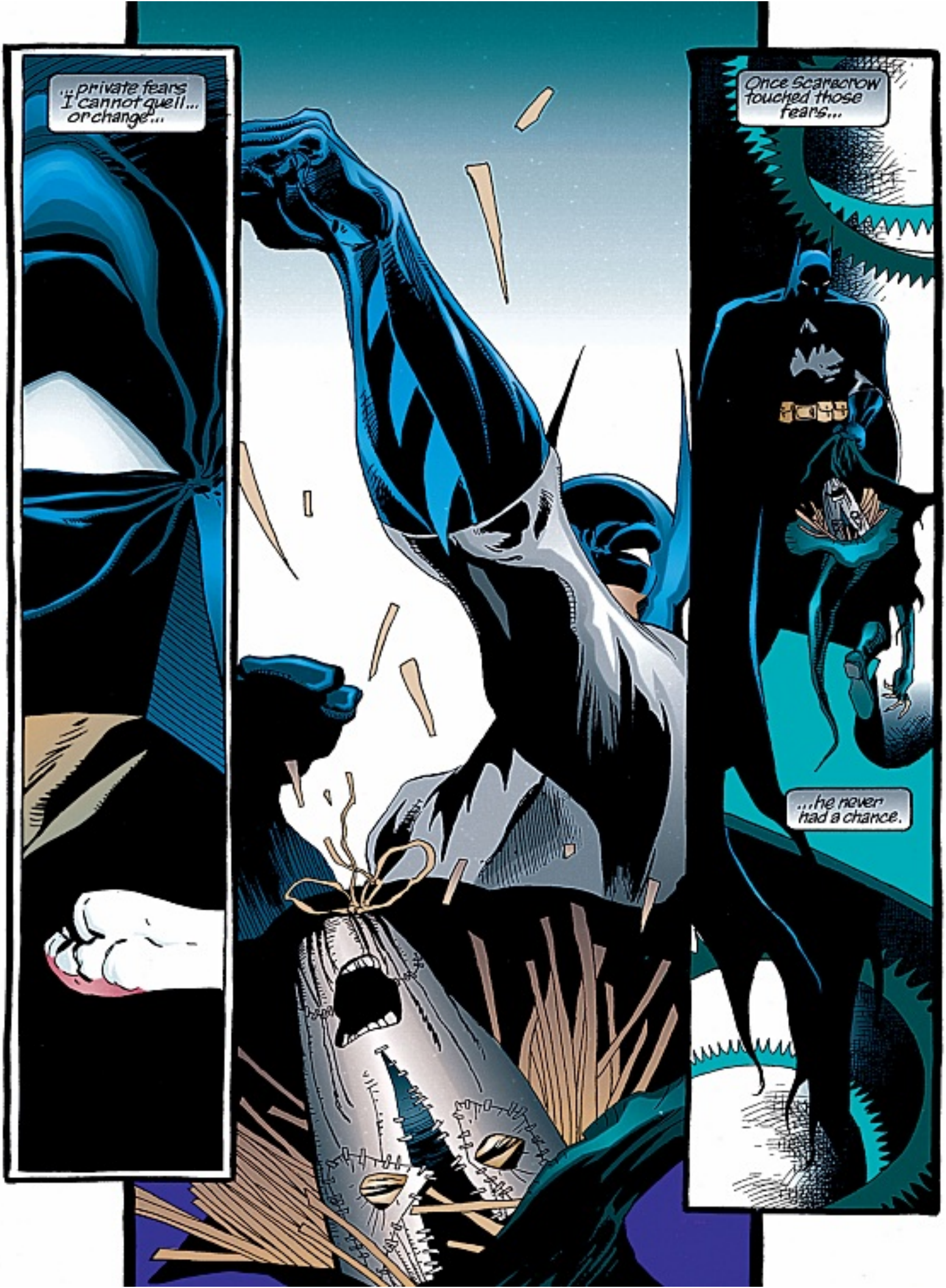
JACK AND JILL WENT UP THE HILL TO FETCH A PAIL OF WATER.
JACK FELL DOWN. BROKE HIS CROWN.
CRANE. LET'S GO BACK INSIDE.
YOU'VE WON. I'LL GET YOU THE RANSOM MONEY.
YOU KNOW, JIM...
THE INTERESTING THING ABOUT A FEAR OF HEIGHTS IS IT'S A VERY PRACTICAL FEAR.
WHY, A FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT--

HEY!
I WAS TALKING TO JIM HERE--!
THANK GOD, IT'S YOU!
STAY HERE. I'M GOING AFTER CRANE.
I... KNOW. IT'S WHAT YOU DO.
TOM, TOM, THE PIPER'S SON.
STOLE A PIG.
AND AWAY HE--

SCARECROW!
LITTLE BOY BLUE COME BLOW YOUR HORN--
THE SHEEP'S IN THE--
STOP IT! THIS ISN'T A GAME!

He'll never know what he did to me...
...how far inside his poison reached...
...to very private things.
LITTLE MISS MUFFET...
LITTLE JACK HORNER...
THE THREE LITTLE KITTENS!
GO. GOO. GOO. GOOOSSE.
MOTHER.

How tempting it was to ignore the batsignal...
How hard it was to ignore...
my desires...


...private fears I cannot quell... or change...
Once Scarecrow touched those fears...
...he never had a chance.

ALFRED! BE A SPORT AND LUG MY LUGGAGE UP FROM THE CAR.
NO, MISS MAXWELL--
--OR SHOULD I SAY, MRS. KATHRYN COLE?
OR MRS. CHRISTINE GHERARD. OR MRS. DIANA LOPEZ. OR MRS. PAMELA WEISMAN.
YOU HAVE BEEN, AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, ALL OF THOSE WOMEN.
ALWAYS A RICH HUSBAND.
ALL OF WHOM DIED... ACCIDENTALLY.
SO, YOU WON'T MIND IF I DO YOU THE FAVOR OF NOT LETTING MR. WAYNE...
...MAKE YOU A WIDOW AGAIN.
SLAP!
BRUCE WILL HEAR ABOUT THIS.
YES, MISS. I AM CERTAIN THAT HE WILL.

I DON'T PRETEND TO BE AN EXPERT ON THE HUMAN HEART...

...BUT, I SUSPECT THAT LEARNING THE TRUTH ABOUT... JILLIAN... MUST BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR YOU.

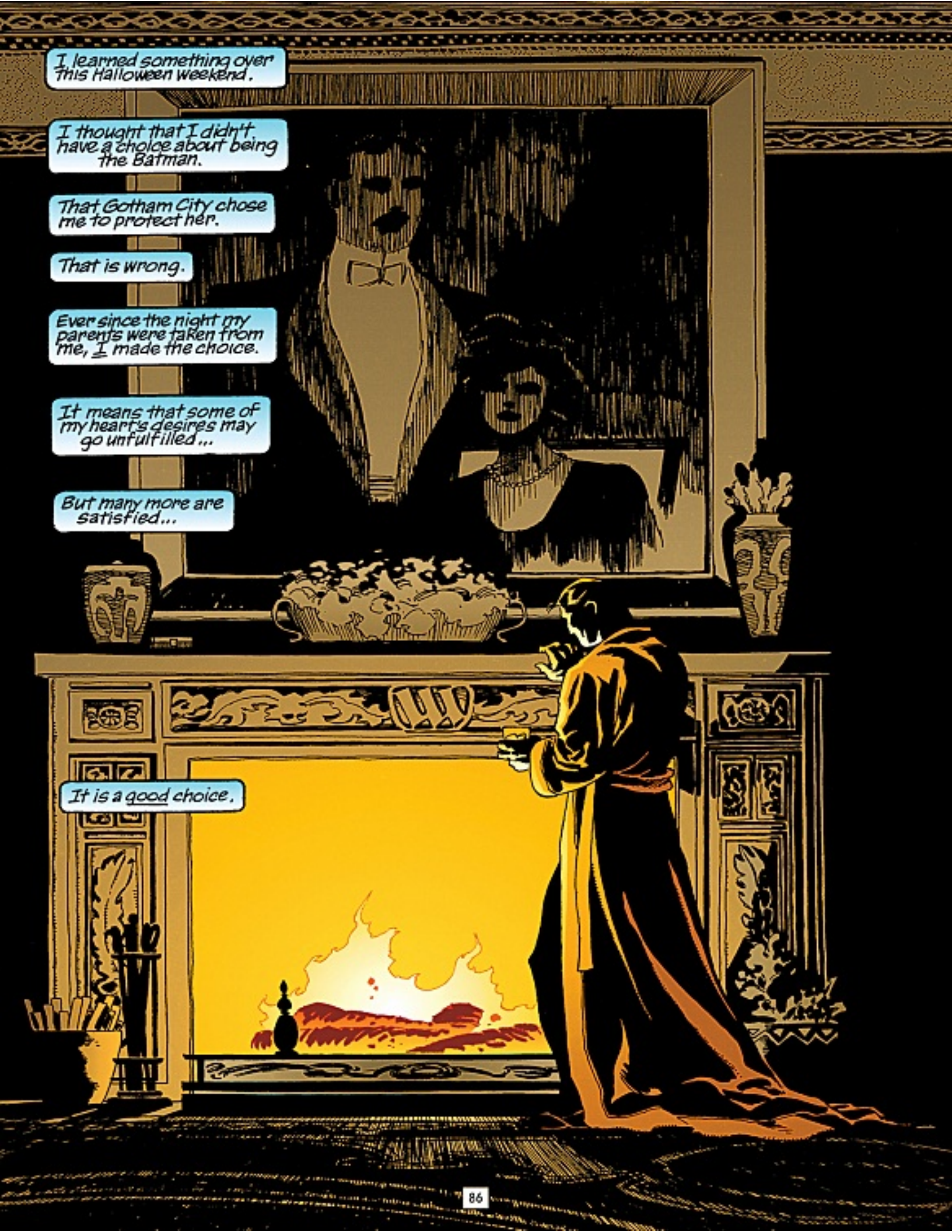
WONDERING HOW SUCH A GREAT DETECTIVE COULD HAVE MADE SO GREAT A MISTAKE.

I OFFER YOU THIS THOUGHT.

PERHAPS IT WASN'T *BATMAN* WHO MADE THE ERROR...

...BUT ONLY BRUCE WAYNE.

ERASE...
ERASE...
ERASE...
ERASE...
ERASE...
ERASE...


I learned something over this Halloween weekend.
I thought that I didn't have a choice about being the Batman.
That Gotham City chose me to protect her.
That is wrong.
Ever since the night my parents were taken from me, I made the choice.
It means that some of my heart's desires may go unfulfilled...
But many more are satisfied...
It is a good choice.

EPILOGUE
SHE CALLS HERSELF "AUDREY MARGUERITE" NOW. AND IN THREE DAYS, SHE'LL MARRY ONE OF BRAZIL'S WEALTHIEST MEN.
AND TWO WEEKS FROM THEN, HE'LL BE KILLED IN A CAR BOMB EXPLOSION.
"DRUG LORDS DID THIS." SHE'S ALREADY PRACTICING HER LINE IN SPANISH.
ESTE CALOR...
EXCUSE ME. YOU ARE BLOCKING MY SUN.
A MAN GAVE ME THIS TO GIVE TO YOU.
CONFESS
...AND SHE KNOWS SHE HAS NO CHOICE...

In the
Style
10

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